# WORLD SOCCER

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**MARIAN MASNY Czechoslovakia**

World Soccer

# The LESLIE VERNON interview

# RON GREENWOOD

THE West Ham academy of football sciences has long been a byword in the game. Not unlike the pre-Raphaelites or the Bloomsbury set in other spheres of the arts, this group of enthusiasts have developed their own philosophy concerning every aspect of football. Under the benevolent eyes of father-figure Walter Winterbottom, a group of coaches — most of them ex-West Ham players — set out to change the face of the hitherto "brawn-before-brains" orientated English scene. Of this dedicated bunch of missionaries, undoubtedly, Ron Greenwood, the current West Ham boss, has been the most successful.

His steadfast determination not to water down his beliefs with compromises and fashionable pragmatism, has been a shining example for all young coaches. Ron admits that he has been extremely lucky to work with a chairman and a board of directors who do not interfere with his work. They understand that the pursuit of an ideal is more important — and in the long run, more beneficial — than empty victories.

No wonder that under these almost ideal circumstances, West Ham have been consistently entertaining—often a lone oasis in a sahara of dull mediocrity. Greenwood, nothing if not a realist, feels that "success" — in terms of silverware, has not been as plentiful as he — and no doubt West Ham's loyal supporters — would have liked.

● *Continued on page 12*

FRONT COVER PICTURE
Featured this month is Italian international Sandro Mazzola.

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# ENGLAND FAV

# BEAT WEST G

**ON Wednesday, March 12, the World Champions come to Wembley and if, as I expect, England beat West Germany, Fleet Street and the man in the ordinary streets will almost certainly be tempted to proclaim England the best in the world once more.**

This is an old-established English custom—customary too in Italy, Argentina and Brazil. What is it, I wonder, that makes the people in these four countries convinced that their football is the best in the world? It isn't something that comes and goes according to the results of their national team—the peoples of these countries have for years seemed to think that 'their' country has some god-given right to be acknowledged football master of the world.

Returning to my original theme, however, it is England's turn to beat West Germany who have had the upper hand since that dramatic reversal back in 1970 during the World Cup at Leon. Everything goes in cycles and though England failed miserably in their last game at Wembley against Portugal, Helmut Schon, the West German team manager, has far more problems than Don Revie.

Much will depend on how these two men react to their different sets of problems, but the Germans, whoever Herr Schon picks, will certainly not play the kind of game the Portuguese put up. Why should they after all? They have the World Cup safely locked away, they did it all last summer and now their priority is to build a new team following the international retirement of half their team and the export to Spain of Paul Breitner.

As Beckenbauer and company showed just before Christmas in Malta, they have a hat full of headaches, not least in attack and if Revie and England are a bit perplexed just now, they are definitely closer to having a settled side than the visitors.

For a start, England have a string of reliable goalkeepers—Shilton, Clemence and West Ham's Mervyn Day knocking on the door loud and clear—while the

## says Eric Batty

West German's have Sepp Maaier, over the top a bit now, certainly not a player for the future, and to my mind, never particularly good even at his best.

Behind Maier are a number of goalkeepers queuing up for a chance, but none of them look really confident dealing with high crosses which must be a vital part of a good goalkeeper's make-up. This particular weakness stems basically from the fear of being knocked about—being hit in the air by someone coming on a run from the blind side. This is a country where almost every other player has a big heart and bags of courage.

Even Toni Turek, who played in the 1954 World Cup winning team, was a bit 'iffy' upstairs, and Tilkowski, who played in the 1966 Final, carried on the tradition. How strange that in my view at least, the best West German goalkeeper since 1945 was Trautman who stayed in England after being a prisoner here, starred for Manchester City and never won a cap!

My only explanation is that it was the blooding he received playing in English club football, where the high cross is the basic attacking idea of most sides (despite being the most primitive).

However, Schon and his predecessor Sepp Herberger did well enough without a top class goalkeeper—their string of battle honours proves this point—and the current German worries concern their midfield and the attack.

A West Ham wall aims to keep out a free kick awarded to Carlisle in an English league match. On the left of the wall are two players Eric Batty recommends for England's match against West Germany . . . Frank Lampard and Trevor Brooking.

## Appears

**Two years ago Wuppertaler SV went up to the *Bundesliga* with a real tear-away centre forward, Klaus Wunder, who while lacking the hidden ability of Gerd Muller at his best to play a vital part in the build up, was certainly aware of what the game is about in the penalty area. Now, however, after being transferred to Bayern Munchen and playing alongside Muller every week, Wunder appears to have lost his bite.**

Against Malta recently, the Offenbach Kickers striker Erwin Kostedde earned his first cap which was, to say the least, a strange selection. Kostedde hammered goals from all directions a few years ago, playing in Belgium for Standard Liege and that surely was the time to

# AVOURITES TO T GERMANY...

cap him. Certainly not now when, at 28, he has a very limited future.

Bernd Holzenbein, who plays on the left wing for Eintracht Frankfurt, was tried there after Muller quit but as he showed in the World Cup Final, Holzenbein is far more effective making runs from deep positions than he is in the middle where, essentially, you want someone to act as a target for balls played up to him. To do that he has to stand and fight with a stopper up his back.

As I have said before in this magazine the problems at international level are really two-fold. First there are a great many players who take the eye at club level, but just haven't got what is required at the top and secondly, there is little that a team manager can do in the few days allowed him each year to get the individual players to change their natural style of play, or develop a basic pattern that will be unique to the national side.

## Respective

The work has to be done at club level . . . and regretfully isn't. The result as we have seen for England so often is that big stars at club level flop in international matches. This is even true in Eastern Europe where the respective National Associations wield far more power than they do elsewhere and theoretically are in a position to order club managers and coaches to work along well defined lines. This works to a certain extent — in Hungary the emphasis now, by order of the FA, is on better physical preparation — but in practice, the club coaches of countries like Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and even the Soviet Union cannot even be made to toe the line on tactical formations, as their ruling bodies have discovered.

Conferences of all the First Division managers and coaches are called, the orders go out and all nod their heads. Yes, yes, yes, they'll work that way from now on—then off they go home to Tatabanya, Kosics and Varna to do their own thing, their own way.

**In Western Europe, where the clubs would not consider for a minute allowing the ruling bodies to tell them by what names the clubs must be known (as happened in Eastern Europe a few years back) and would totally reject any advice or instructions from their ruling bodies, national coaches have to walk the very fine line between choosing national heroes (based on club performances) and developing a unified approach to the game within the group of players they select.**

This can best be done, whether one likes it or not, by taking players in batches from one, two or three clubs.

Strangely both Schon and Revie fall into this catebory, apparently having realised that this is the only answer to their problems. Unhappily, Herr Schon appears to be mesmerised by Bayern Munchen and 1st FC Koln, while Don Revie—naturally enough in his first year as England boss—leans heavily towards the players he knows best, at Leeds United.

If Schon and Revie follow their recent patterns, the England—West Germany game will not be of very much benefit to anyone bar the Football Association who must surely collect £200,000 plus (and a big TV fee) for the visit of the World Champions?

From the England viewpoint I would suggest that Worthington, Clarke, Channon, Keegan and company have had long enough to show what they can do at international level and haven't come up to scratch. They all have individual qualities, Clarke having some less admirable but they haven't got what it takes at international level or at least are taking too long to settle and show it.

Certainly they all have ability, Channon *can be* brilliant as a one man spearhead while Keegan always looks good for Liverpool but . . .

## Quality

Where Revie looks for new front men is anybody's guess but sooner or later he is going to have to reject this lot, just as Chivers has finally passed out of the reckoning.

But whoever plays up front for either side, the quality of the entertainment set before the 100,000 will depend upon the build up from midfield—and this again applies to both sides.

What I would like to see is an England midfield of Bonds (West Ham), Bell (Manchester City) and Brooking (West Ham), with support from the back coming from Madeley (Leeds) on the right and Lampard (West Ham) on the left. I know that means leaving out the new England captain but that's how I feel. Hughes looks magnificent for Liverpool but at international level we need more than a big body, dedication, will to win and belief. Above all, they have to be able to play . . .

For one last throw I'd play Keegan, Channon, Clarke and Worthington, mixed up any way you like and perhaps giving two of them half a game each. If they show that they still cannot do it with the assistance and support of the five men I've named coming from the back then I'd let them all go back to their clubs and stay there.

West Germany have the same kind of problems with Helmut Schon apparently blind to the achievements of Hennes Weisweiler at Borussia Monchengladbach. . . or maybe, as many international bosses are, afraid that the glory that's going may be swept the way of the man who produced them.

Whatever the reason I cannot understand how Wolfgang Overath, Heinz Flohe and Bernd Cullmann have dominated the midfield for West Germany in the last two years.

## Midfield

Having named England's team I'll now do the same for West Germany and though I wouldn't know where to go for a right winger I'd keep Holzenbein on the left and bring back Jupp Heynckes at centre forward. There is a reason for this—quite apart from the fact that he's a very good and also experienced player, but also because I plan to give the midfield region to Borussia Monchengladbach club-mates: Ranier Bonhof, Herbert Wimmer and Dietmar Danner.

With Berti Vogts at right back this means five men from the club whose football over the last five years has brought them the kind of friends earned by West Ham (in England) and Ajax and Feyenoord (in Holland).

The uncrowned king of Bavaria may not like it, but if he doesn't want to play I'd let all the Bayern bunch go their own way.

Football, let me remind you, is the name of the game and all my fellows can play. If Herr Schon takes my line and Revie doesn't then we could see West Germany defy the swing of the pendulum that says it's England's turn to win.

If they both go their own way then we'll probably see another scrappy game and England scrape home. One final thought, let me echo Brian Glanville's comment and urge the FA to give back the new strip (and the money). New is not necessarily good, just as big is not always good. I liked the old England gear . . . even if I didn't always like their football.

Jupp Heynckes, a possible for West Germany against England on March 12.

# Fresh exp team w England a

## ARTHUR ROTMIL spotlights t

**A VASTLY experimental German side will tackle England in a friendly international at Wembley on March 12. For the team which so brilliantly won the World Cup only last July, has largely disintegrated, mainly through voluntary retirement of some of its greatest stars and partly on account of injury or loss of form. Thus the Germans have been forced to rebuild and rejuvenate their side right at the start of the European Championships, which they also won in 1972 and whose title they are now defending.**

It is incredible to note, that in their last international — a European tie against Malta—the Germans fielded five new caps (including the substitutes) and only four members of the World Cup winning side! And from the team which triumphed in the final of the European Championship, just 2½ years ago, only captain Franz Beckenbauer remained in the line-up!

Checking up on the absentees from the world champion ranks first, it can be confirmed once again that Gerd Müller Wolfgang Overath and Jürgen Grabowski have "resigned" from the national team, whilst Paul Breitner, who has left for Real Madrid, is no longer considered. Three stars missed the Malta game for different reasons: Goalkeeper Sepp Maier was asked to stand down so that another chance could be offered to Norbert Nigbur (Schalke). Uli Hoeness dropped out because of an operation for hernia, which put him on the sidelines for six weeks, and his club mate Georg Schwarzenbeck withdrew at the last minute, because of a recurrence of a back muscle injury. And so only four "world champions" were on duty: Beckenbauer, Vogts, Bonhof and Hölzenbein.

Interesting to note, too, that out of the team victorious in the European Championship, Höttges and Netzer are no longer in contention. Wimmer and Heynckes belong to the squad but are not first choice, while Erwin Kremers has upset the officials, as well as the public, and is currently in "cold storage".

How strong are the Germans now? Well, certainly well below the peak of 1972 and clearly not as good as in the World Cup. They are now forced to try a number of young inexperienced players, but also some older hands making a belated bid for representative honours.

Into the first category falls above all Karl-Heinz Körbel of Eintracht Frankfurt. This 20-year-old *libero* gave the most convincing performance of the five debutants. Astonishing how this relatively raw youngster established an immediate understanding with Beckenbauer. His composure and confidence impressed the acting manager Jupp Derwall (Helmut Schön was absent following a cartilage operation) and should assure Körbel of further recognition.

### Compact

At left back the durable and compact Bernhard Dietz 26, could fill the void left by the departure of Breitner. Dietz has shot into prominence only this season, all the more remarkable since he plays for the unfashionable MSV Duisburg. Centre forward Erwin Kostedde, the first coloured footballer to represent Germany, drew of course the most searching scrutiny since this country has always been proud of its central strikers, a tradition carried on during the last 20 years by such redoubtable spearheads as Uwe Seeler and Gerd Müller.

Of course, any comparison between these two and Kostedde are unfair, if only because their styles of play differ so much. But Kostedde is intelligent, technically highly skilled and unlike Müller he makes his own chances outside the box, brings his colleagues more into play, is strong in the air and a prolific goalgetter himself.

A pity that he is 28 years old, and thus must complete with younger men earmarked for the next World Cup in 1978.

**On the other two new caps judgment must be reserved, since Bernd Nickel 25 (Eintracht Frankfurt) and Rudi Seliger 23 (MSV Duisburg), who came on as substitutes, did not have time to adjust their game, nor to find contact with their colleagues and moreover that dreadful pitch in La Valetta was hardly suited to normal football. Seliger was unlucky to have a goal disallowed for offside, whilst Nickel missed a good chance.**

That the Germans have declined since winning the World Cup is evident from the half-yearly rankings issued by the largest and most influential sports paper *Kicker-Sportmagazin*. According to their usually over-modest assessment, the Germans now only have two world class players! Beckenbauer and Vogts have received this accolade.

Into the next category, called "international class", the "Kicker" has placed 13 players namely: goalkeepers Maier, Nigbur, Kargus and Franke; defenders Dietz and Cullmann; midfielders Grabowski and Bonhof; forwards Held, Müller, Hoeness, Kostedde and Hölzenbein. Highly revealing is the fact, that for the positions of outside right and stopper not a single player has merited the rating "international class"!

### Election

Nevertheless, the Germans are still highly regarded abroad. In the largest and most widely quoted annual poll, conducted by *France Football*, no fewer than seven German stars are found in the top 19! In this famous election of the "European Footballer of the Year", Beckenbauer came second and the others who gathered votes were Breitner (4th), Müller (7th), Vogts (10th), Maier (15th), Bonhof and Hoeness (both 19th).

The German national team has also retained its status and in every publication throughout Europe it is rated as Number One in the world, in some polls sharing top place with Holland.

The forthcoming match at Wembley will revive memories of the stirring battles between England and Germany

# perimental will face at Wembley

## the West German national side

Sepp Maier, the very experienced West German goalkeeper.

in the last decade. England's 4-2 win in the World Cup final at Wembley in 1966, was in fact the last victory of the erstwhile "professors" of soccer over their for so long unsuccessful pupils. For over sixty years, since that crushing 12-0 defeat at Tottenham in 1901, the Germans could not beat England.

### Dramatic

In 1968, at last, a goal by Beckenbauer gave them a 1-0 victory at Hanover. There followed that dramatic World Cup quarter-final in Leon (Mexico), when the Germans 0-2 down, pulled back and won in extra time by 3-2. England's dream of retaining the World Cup was shattered. Then came Germany's first triumph on English soil, when they won the first leg of the European Championship quarter-final, at Wembley, in April 1972 by 3-1. The return in Berlin was goalless, so that West Germany advanced to the semi-finals of the competition, which they won by defeating Russia 3-0 in the final.

And so, incredibly, in their last four meetings with England the Germans won three times and drew once. And now there is no other country in the world the English would like to thrash more than Germany! In view of the experimental nature of the current German side they may never get a better chance than on March 12.

For the Germans it will be their 400th international fixture, right at the start of the year in which their Football Federation (DFB) are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their foundation. West Germany's record in 1974 reads: v. Spain 0-1 (a); v. Italy 0-0 (a); v. Scotland 2-1 (h); v. Hungary 5-0 (h); v. Sweden 2-0 (h); v. Chile 1-0 (WC); v. Australia 3-0 (WC); v. East Germany 0-1 (WC); v. Yugoslavia 2-0 (WC); v. Sweden 4-2 (WC); v. Poland 1-0 (WC); v. Holland 2-1 (WC); v. Switzerland 2-1 (a); v. Greece 2-2 (EC—a) and v. Malta 1-0 (EC—a).

The national team's programme for 1975 is: v. England, March 12, at Wembley; v. Bulgaria, April 27, Sofia—EC; v. Holland, at Whitsun, in Frankfurt; v. Austria, September 3, Vienna; v. Greece, October 11, at home—EC; v. Bulgaria, November 19, at home—EC; v. Turkey, December 20, away.

The *Bundesliga* championship was interrupted for a short winter break between December 14 and January 25. A number of clubs had undertaken tours abroad, including the champions Bayern Munich who played twice in Japan against the national team, winning each time by 1-0 before crowds of 60,000 and 50,000 respectively! But before Bayern took off for Tokyo there came the hardly surprising final confrontation between coach Udo Lattek and the club management, following which Lattek resigned for good.

In his place the Munich club have engaged Dettmar Cramer, 49, who was formerly FIFA's number one coach and who recently accepted the post of national manager in the United States. But this was apparently just a verbal agreement and is not regarded as binding in any legal way. Nevertheless, there is talk now of an impending protest by the Soccer Federation of USA who are threatening Cramer and Bayern with a law suit for breach of contract.

Cramer, who is widely acknowledged as an expert on tactics and technical preparation, should find his new task far more challenging and stimulating than anything he has ever tackled in his travels round the world. For Bayern have made the worst start to the season since gaining promotion in 1965, and at the half-way stage were lying 14th, with a negative points and goal record for the first time ever!


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# PSV BR AND FE GRIP IN

**PSV EINDHOVEN have emerged this season as a real threat to the Dutch dominance of Ajax and Feyenoord.**

But how much do Ralf Edstroem, Willie van der Kuylen and company deserve the credit and how much do they owe to the processes of decay eating into both the former European champions?

And those who imagine that the setbacks both Ajax and Feyenoord have suffered lately are minor affairs might care to think again.

That there is something rotten in the state of Ajax no one would deny. And equally there is little doubt that it all goes back to the late spring of 1973 and the aftermath of the third consecutive Champions' Cup victory.

Juventus were beaten 1-0 in Belgrade in a game which veered remarkably from the sublime (first 20 minutes) to the virtually ridiculous (last 70 minutes).

The talk afterwards was of comparisons with Real Madrid, but surely Santiago Bernabeu would never have been so ready to release Alfredo di Stefano as Jaap van Praag was to sell Johan Cruyff?

Of course, Cruyff did not begin the exodus. That was set under way by the then 53-year-old Rumanian Stefan Kovacs, who had taken over as manager in 1971 after Rinus Michels ended his five-year reign to move to Barcelona.

## Directors

Even now, two years later, an air of mystery still surrounds Kovacs's departure. It had been Kovacs who, in 1972, persuaded Ajax to take part in the World Club Cup Final in which they beat Independiente 1-1 3-0, and no doubt he had hopes of keeping that title.

Either way, he never had the chance. There was a detectable chill in the atmosphere when Kovacs and the directors were together in Belgrade and already it had been announced that the Rumanian FA wanted him back — not as national team manager, but as some sort of soccer overlord.

Suddenly, then, they didn't want him after all, and, instead of Ajax being grateful to keep the man who had awoken us to the concept of "total football", they let him go to France. Very peculiar. . . .

Even more daft was the Cruyff transfer. Ajax certainly did not need the money, but of course Johan had ways and means of forcing the club to let him go and so Barcelona paid out that staggering £922,000 — about £500,000 of which went to Ajax.

It was a most protracted deal too, finalised at talks in Coruna despite a welter of denials on both sides, but the hidden clue was there for all to see when, a week or so later, Ajax turned down several Spanish offers for 21-year-old Johnny Rep.

**They couldn't afford to let both men go. . . .**

Ajax called in a comparative unknown, Georg Knobel, from MVV Maastricht, over the head of the very competent Bobby Haarms, who had been everybody's assistant, and Knobel succeeded not only in taking Ajax to abdication in the Champions' Cup (beaten by CSKA Sofia in the second round) but in the championship as well.

Knobel also lost his job — not as a result of failures on the field, but as a top-level reprisal against an extreme tirade against his own players for preferring the *Dolce Vita* to football.

Hans Kraay, the 38-year-old former Feyenoord stopper, took over then, as uncompromising a manager as he had been a player. On his advice the club splashed out big fees on 27-year-old goalkeeper Piet Schrijers from Twente Enschede, 28-year-old striker Willy Brokamp from MVV, and the 26-year-old former Telstar and Feyenoord centre-forward Ruud Geels, who had just spent two years with Bruges.

But Ajax failed in their main objective — the signing of another Belgian-based Dutchman, Rob Rensenbrink, the 27-year-old World Cup left-winger, because Anderlecht could afford to turn down a £300,000 cash offer and insist on Johnny Rep in a straight swap.

And that just wasn't on.

## Roundabouts

**So where did all this money come from? Easy—from the sale to Barcelona of Johan Neeskens, at 22 one of the outstanding men in the World Cup Finals, and thus what Ajax had gained on the swings they lost on the roundabouts.**

Geels has done well—with 14 goals from 17 games at the time of writing he's second only to van der Kuylen—but Schrijvers has been inconsistent and for a few matches Kraay even had to recall the overweight 29-years-old Heinz Stuy.

True, Ajax beat Stoke and Antwerp—narrowly—in the UEFA Cup, but then they went out on the away goals rule to Juventus. Perhaps the result might have been different had Rep not missed both games, but he was under suspension after being sent off against the Belgians.

And that was only the start of a rapid deterioration as morale disintegrated still further.

Bust-up No 1 came just before Christmas with Piet Keizer, the 31-year-old who had played in all their European finals, as the central figure. Keizer who recovered from a fractured skull early in his career to become one of Europe's top players, had not had the happiest of times lately.

Three years ago he was deposed as captain in favour of Cruyff, and though the two had once been good friends, this drove a rift between them which proved hard to repair.

## Appointed

When Kraay was appointed Keizer thought it about time to explore pastures new and asked for a free transfer. Kraay had other ideas, however, and replied: "If you're going to be transferred, then I'll be asking £150,000 for you."

He convinced Keizer that there was still a place for him at Ajax, but in midfield, not on the left wing. Keizer made a temporary peace and took up his new role. But though his displays pleased the fans, Kraay criticised Keizer for not working hard enough, and dropped him.

**The following weekend Ajax went down 2-1 to Feyenoord and president van Praag surprised everyone afterwards by announcing that Keizer's contract had been cancelled and he had been appointed to the club's scouting staff. The one man who hadn't been told, it seems, was Keizer.**

"I don't know anything about this," he said the next day. "I was upset at being left out of the team last week, but I'm certainly not retiring. My contract still has a year or two to run, anyway."

And he hasn't been seen at Ajax headquarters since. Perhaps he will find a resting place in France, for Olympique Nimes apparently fancy their chances of persuading Kraay to accept a nominal fee.

Going out of the UEFA Cup wasn't too bad — it happens to a lot of good teams, after all — but going out of the Dutch Cup 4-2 after extra time to little Heracles Almelo was a sad humiliation. And it provoked a further angry outburst, this time from Horst Blankenburg.

# EAK AJAX YENOORD HOLLAND

the 27-year-old West German-born sweeper.

Blankenburg joined Ajax from Munich 1860 in 1971 as a midfield man. Kovacs turned him into a sweeper and he did so well that the KNVB asked him to become a naturalised Dutch citizen so that he could play for the national team.

Blankenbury conveniently forgot that he had made one appearance as substitute for West Germany's under-23 side, but FIFA and the DFB hadn't, and when he was on the verge of his first cap for Holland they were politely reminded that this was against the rules.

One of the stalwarts of the Ajax team — his cross led to Rep's goal in the 1973 Champions' Cup Final—it was therefore that much more of a surprise that he should be the one to blow his top after the Heracles defeat.

## Involved

"Kraay has the whole team against him," he complained. "I'd happily leave Ajax tomorrow. Kraay has taken every opportunity to fine me. At Stoke I was fined nearly £100 because I was an hour late getting back to the hotel. But that was only because Arno Steffenhagen and I stayed for a little while talking to George Eastham whom Arno knew in South Africa."

*(Steffenhagen, a 25-year-old West German, joined Ajax in December 1973 after being involved in the Hertha bribery scandal; Zoltan Varga, now 30, was also implicated and was also with Ajax for a short spell later, as I reported last month).*

Blankenburg went on: "Then, when I was five minutes late for the Almelo journey I was fined again—though I tried to explain that this was because my mother had rung to say that my father had suffered a heart attack. Yet Kraay still fined me £5.

"I know we haven't been doing well, but I'm not the only player not quite in top form. Kraay seems to blame me for everything. My contract here runs until July next year but I'm ready to go now."

And go he probably will; if there is one thing Kraay will not stand, particularly after the Knobel example, it is indiscipline and he has clearly had his problems setting Ajax back on the straight and narrow.

Time could run out for him soon though. There is talk that he may not last the season, but dismissal (they call it "resignation") would seem a harsh fate—particularly since Keizer and Blankeburg haven't been his only problems.

There's also the sad case of Barry Hulshoff, the tall, bearded 28-year-old stopper so deeply involved in the Champions' Cup trilogy. Hulshoff had to miss the World Cup Finals because of a knee injury suffered against NAC in a league game last March, and he's only played a few times since.

But on each occasion the knee has swelled like a balloon and now Hulshoff has been told that another operation will be necessary if he is to have the slimmest chance of playing again.

Meanwhile Johan Cruyff, now 27, goes his own sweet way in Spain—not setting the league alight in the same way this season, but still contributing in his own modest way to making Barcelona 7-4 favourites for the Champions' Cup.

Cruyff was not only elected Europe's Player of the Year recently, but also won the Dutch award—and for a man who has been playing abroad for 15 months that takes some doing!

## Ordinary

But then, Cruyff is no ordinary player —and his earning power is not the earning power of an ordinary player, as you can judge from this list of sidelines:

A contract for life with Puma for £50,000 a year;

A contract for five years with Philips guaranteeing £20,000 a year; Publicity contracts in Spain and Holland which bring in another £200,000 a year.

All in all, £270,000 a year for advertising—and that's before you start to work out the complications of how much he earns directly from soccer; for instance, both he and Neeskens receive DOUBLE bonuses, and Cor Coster, Cruyff's father-in-law and business manager, estimates that when his contract with CFB runs out in 18 months' time, he will have earned between £2 million and £3 million.

When that times comes Cruyff is confidently expected to return to Ajax, but meanwhile, as Feyenoord's Wim van Hanegem put it—begging the translation —"The Ajax reign is over."

Van Hanegem went on: "Even when Cruyff and Neeskens were there at Ajax we at Feyenoord really upset them because we refused to accept their pretence of superiority. Ajax badly miss those two —did they honestly believe that money, however much, could be an adequate replacement for two players of that calibre?"

## Mystery

**It has always been a mystery why van Hanegem, now almost 21, stayed with Feyenoord, who signed him from Xerxes (Delft) in 1968, bringing him down the same road followed by his predecessor as darling of the Rotterdam fans—Coen Moulijn.**

But the man with the unpredictable temper and the peerless left foot has turned down any number of offers from France, Spain and West Germany.

"I understand why Cruyff and Neeskens felt that they couldn't pass up the chance to make a lot of money, but I've always been happy here and hope to finish my career with Feyenoord," he said.

It could help of course that the UEFA Cup holders are among the richest clubs in Europe.

Not that this is any guarantee of success and just like Ajax, they face a great deal of work if they are to keep PSV from stealing all the glory in the next year or two.

Manager Wiel Coerver quits at the end of the season anyway, but he could have done without the 1-0 defeat away to FC Roda, for Roda are managed by his brother, Hans. Even worse, Feyenoord dominated from the start to finish with van Hanegem in fine form, only to throw away both points because of a stupid blunder five minutes from time by veteran goalkeeper Eddy Treytel.

● *Continued on page 19*

# Orient p clubs to

by Brian Glanville

**THE most interesting tactical game I have watched this season was certainly that in which Orient so very nearly beat Derby County in the Cup at Brisbane Road. Very nearly indeed. In so doing, they put to shame our craven First Division clubs who, with the somewhat unhappy exception of Leicester, have been unwilling or unable to put into practice the methods of Total Football.**

Let me recall the match to you. Orient played what might be termed attacking *catenaccio*. Knowing that Derby would play with three strikers, they — or rather their enterprising manager, George Petchey — decided that they would play a man to man marking game. Hoadley, Walley and Fisher were placed on Lee, Davies and Bourne, with Derrick Downing operating behind them as a sweeper. Not, let it be emphasised, a sweeper of the classical and drearily negative Italian kind, but in the modern manner of a Beckenbauer or a Blankenburg.

Leicester had tried something of the sort at the beginning of the season, and it had not worked at all. If I remember correctly, Jon Sammels was the man chosen to play the role of sweeper; on the whole a promising choice, for he is a player of skill, vision and experience. But such defenders as Graham Cross, used for so many years to covering the centre-half, rather than marking close, found it hard to adapt to the new methods. There were flurries of goals, enormous spaces in defence, and the tactics were dropped.

Curiously enough, Petchey followed Bloomfield into the managerial chair at Orient. While sympathising with Bloomfield's problems, I believe the answer is that if you want players to fill certain and specific roles for you, it is incumbent on you to have them coached for it. John Lyall, West Ham's excellent young team manager, said to me that it was not easy to persuade British defenders to become man to man markers, following their men all the way across the breadth of the park.

This is fair enough. After all, by and large a right or left back is trained and conditioned to play on the right or left, while a centre-back does not relish moving out on the wing. But as Petchey observes, defenders presumably become defenders because they like to mark. Certainly he was most successful in turning his back three into markers; although young Bobby Fisher, as he pointed out, is not a player who cares to mark, by nature.

## Wingers

To use only three men at the back was very bold indeed; no Italian team would dare to do it. Petchey himself says that his system can be employed only against teams which do not have two wingers. Italy's *catenaccio* teams have, of course, four at the back with a sweeper filling in the gaps behind them. Derby hadn't the imagination to ruin Orient's tactics by pushing another man up, or bringing another forward on. To be precise, when they did bring Hinton on, they brought Bourne off, so that it was a question of maintaining the *status quo*.

The use of Downing was particularly inspired. He is by "trade" and background a winger and, Petchey says, is not a particularly good reader of the game; though I must say that he seemed to read it thoroughly well on that particular January afternoon.

## Passage

**His breaks out of defence were astonishingly successful. There was one memorable passage in the second-half when he turned up on the left wing, joined in an elaborate network of short passing, then broke like a true winger to the left goal line, pulling the ball back for Fairbrother to drive it hard against the post.**

The whole performance, and that which Orient gave at Derby a few days later, when they were so unlucky to lose, was an object lesson to greater clubs. West Ham might well be the next to go in that profitable direction, and not because they happen to be Orient's neighbours. Ron Greenwood has said to me that the future lies with man to man marking; and implicit in man to man marking there is a sweeper.

# CUP SCARE

**AS rumours continue to fly around that Argentina may not be able to organise the 1978 World Cup finals, other countries come up with offers to take over the event . . . and every time that happens there's a scare in Argentina that there's a plot to take the World Cup finals away from them.**

This was the case at the end of last year when Holland and Belgium offered to hold the next World Cup finals jointly. It certainly caused a scare in Argentina. Luckily FIFA's president Joao Havelange was due here on a routine visit a few days later to inspect installations in Mar del Plata — one of the World Cup venues which the FIFA delegation did not have time to see during their "flying" visit to Argentina in October.

Havelange assured Argentine officials that FIFA is confident that Argentina can organise the next World Cup.

The "scare" did have some effect however. A few days later the government approved plans for building new stadiums (to hold 60,000 spectators each) in Mendoza and Cordoba and for renovating the stadiums of River Plate and Velez Sarsfield in Buenos Aires, that of Rosario Central in Rosario and the San Martin stadium in Mar del Plata, all of which will be used for the World Cup.

Building has not yet started. A few more "scares" may get things moving quicker — but in any case, there seems to be no reason why Argentina should not be able to organise the event. Accommodation at — and communication and transport to — some of the provincial venues will have to be improved, but it isn't a job that can't be done.

**LIBERTADORES CUP, 1975**

The first match for this season's Libertadores Cup — the South American club championship for which champions and vice-champions of each country qualify — is scheduled for February 16.

Although league championships in Chile and Peru had not finished at the time of writing and a six-team tournament to pick the two qualifiers was being played in Uruguay, the first round draw was made as follows:

**Group 1** — Rosario Central and Newell's Old Boys (Argentina), Cerro Porteño and Olimpia (Paraguay). **Group 2** — The Strongest and Jorge Wilsterman (Bolivia), two Chilean teams. **Group 3** — Cruzeiro and Vasco da Gama (Brazil), Dep. Cali, Nacional (Colombia). **Group 4** — Liga Deportiva Universitario de Quito, Nacional (Ecuador), Galicia, Portuguesa (Venezuela). **Group 5** — two Uruguayan and two Peruvian teams.

# t put other to shame...

The Italians, as I suppose might have been predicted, have lamentably failed to implement all their good intentions after the World Cup. But it is a time-honoured Italian custom to attain some sort of catharsis, after any imagined disaster, by weeping, wailing and gnashing teeth; after which they return to precisely the habits which brought about their downfall in the first place.

When Poland knocked them out of the World Cup, we heard two self-criticisms; first that their players were not prepared to run and "suffer", secondly that *catenaccio* was too defensive. The way must be opened for the dynamic *libero*, such as Beckenbauer. A list was published in one sports daily to show that every single sweeper in *Serie A*, the first division, was an ex-defender. And what has happened? Why, they are all still defenders, and Italian football this season has been as pitifully, boringly defensive as ever.

## Position

The game there, if game be the word, is positively strangled by money. Directors are afraid of losing face, managers fear for their jobs, players for their position in the team. I think we can forget Italian football. No one has the guts to change; yet with their clever, if sometimes cynical, defenders so used to man to man marking, with the sweeper so long installed, how easy a positive change would still be!

If the Italian Championship has been a ghastly one this season, it can scarcely be said that our own has been distinguished. The contrast with last season is sharp, if scarcely instructive. A year ago, we had Leeds dominating the whole affair, before they plunged suddenly into decline. This season, it has been, at the top, like a game of musical chairs; not, alas, because there are so many good teams, but because there is no really good one.

How the League will look by the time you read this I don't know, but I myself would like to see Ipswich win it. I had my doubts about them until I saw their magnificent second-half performance against Liverpool in the F.A. Cup. There are many things I like about them. Though tactically not very original — which is not to disparage the attacking 4-4-2 they have often used — their play is enterprising, open and attractive.

They have a very good young manager in Bobby Robson who has dedicated himself to producing good players in good teams; to such an extent that Ipswich have frequently taken the field with nine or ten "home grown" players.

This seems to me a perfectly astonishing achievement in our day and age, when the great, or allegedly great, clubs throw money around even (to be somewhat "Irish") when they haven't got it, when the notion that a truly successful team can be built without buying.

Not all Ipswich's players come from the East Anglian area, which has never been particularly rich in talent, but a surprising number do, among them Trevor Whymark. It must equally be admitted that a key figure in their success is that fine centre-forward, David Johnson, who was bought from Everton, and whom Robson talks about hopefully as a future England player.

But such players as Kevin Beattie, who arrived, as we all know, from Carlisle with sixpence in his pocket and his boots in a brown paper parcel, Burley, the little, cherubic Scots full-back, Mick Mills, from Godalming and Talbot, so busy in midfield, have all been brought on at Portman Road.

Leeds are probably the best all-round team, the best articulated club, in the country, and their own success in bringing on young players by the dozen deserves to be saluted. But I have a feeling that it is Ipswich Town's turn; and their performance in the past UEFA Cup tournament suggests that they would do well. Above all, this is a young team which can surely only get better . . . and better.

# Football not a science ...it is a simple game

But the club did win the FA and the European Cup Winners Cups, and they are a well-established First Division outfit. During the very same period, other London clubs with the same potential (Fulham, Brentford etc.) have deteriorated and lost a substantial proportion of their support.

Bobby Gould, who has made so much difference to the rejuvenated West Ham side this season.

An average attendance around the 28,000 mark, universal respect and appreciation, and an international reputation for fair-play and inventive football. If that is not "success" I don't know what is?

A conversation with Ron Greenwood is always a stimulating experience, and on this occasion, I was seeking his views on the wider aspects of the game. Ron, now the general manager of the club, has chosen the richly talented coach John Lyall to take over the running of the first team from him, and has appointed ex-player Ronnie Boyce to run the youth side.

"With those two in charge of training and tactics, the West Ham tradition is in good hands. In fact, I saw our youth team the other day, and they were playing like a dream. Quite magnificent."

*"Did you see anything new during the last World Cup?"*

"No. As you know I attended the two previous finals as a member of the official FIFA coaching committee. This time I was a mere observer, and the excellence of West Germany and Holland merely confirmed my belief in total football. This is the type of game we have been attempting to play at West Ham for the last three years. But it is not a new concept. Hugo Maisl, the Austrian, preached it ages ago — only he called it 'the whirl'.

"It really means a team of all-rounders. Every player is able to score goals, and all of them are good defenders. The crux of the matter is possession of the ball! It engulfs everything that is really essential — passing, control, tactics, supporting players who have the ball. It is an old truism that the opposition cannot score unless they have possession.

"That is why the really good sides seldom give the ball away. They have the necessary patience and skill to keep the ball, and probe until a positive move is 'on'. We must have utter belief in this philosophy, because its execution is not easy, it doesn't happen overnight.

## Split second

"Every member of the team must be involved in every move. As in rugby, where support players run alongside the man with the ball and are ready to accept a pass in the split second before the player is tackled."

*"Who is your ideal player?"*

"Beckenbauer. He is intelligent, skilful, and utilizes space and time beautifully. Bobby Moore has the same qualities. These players — and some others — do things simply. Simplicity is genius! A few years ago a foreign coaching association wrote and asked me to give the biceps measurements, pulse rate etc., of Bobby Moore.

"I didn't know whether to laugh or cry! You cannot manufacture footballers to specification like

## The Leslie Vernon interview

● Continued from page 3

robots. What he has inside his head is what makes Bobby unique. Apart from individuals, my favourite prototype of player is one who is built like a ballet dancer — not a weightlifter.

"I like balance, grace, an ability to turn quickly, to change direction. We do a lot of exercises here to strengthen the stomach muscles, but no weightlifting."

*"What are the biggest problems facing football today?"*

"I have no patience with the pseudo-experts who tell us that football is a science. It is nothing of the sort! It is a simple game, to be enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. There is no need to intellectualize it, to complicate it. Football is also a game of habits.

"In training, the coaches must instil the good habits into the players. That is really all we can do. We cannot create natural talent, but we can help to develop it on the right lines. In the final analysis, what happens is up to the 11 players on the pitch. Their invention, their skill, their enthusiasm, their good or bad habits are the decisive factors, whether it is a good match or a 'kick and rush' bore. I like to see skill, a battle of wits — not a bullfight."

*"Do you expect Europe's present superiority over America to become permanent?"*

"When we talk of South America, we are really speaking of Brazil. The other countries have been disappointing during the last 15 years. The Brazilians made a mistake when they tried to imitate us. If they concentrate on their own type of football, and find a few outstanding players, they will be back in the forefront of the world game by 1978."

### Competitions

*"Why is it that while our club sides do reasonably well in the European competitions, our national team have been going through a bad patch?"*

"On club level, it is often a question of attitudes. British players are always well prepared physically and psychologically. When our teams play abroad, they are still full of confidence, and they are capable of getting good results. Foreign players — and I am speaking in general terms — are often beaten before they leave their dressing rooms. Vasas, Cologne, Lazio, Olympiakos and others have come here almost frightened, looking for excuses even before a ball was kicked.

"On full international level, it is the old problem of an overcrowded fixture list. When Don Revie meets the squad, he has no time to work with them. It is more important what he says to them, how he motivates them, than what he does in training — in two days you cannot transform a club player into an international.

"No wonder that there is a lack of understanding and teamwork. I would like to see a defence or a forward-line selected — as an experiment — from one club. At least the players would be in familiar company, and they would be able to reproduce their club form and their usual fluent football."

As I was leaving, John Lyall walked in to discuss day-to-day matters with Greenwood. One could sense that there is a strong bond between the two men, that they are on the same wavelength. I wish the best of luck to this creative partnership — a manifestly successful West Ham side can do nothing but good for English football.


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# ARTHUR ROTMIL previews the next round of the European Cup

# LEE UN

Paul Van Himst of Anderlecht and Belgium.

**ENGLISH club football has suffered some cruel disappointments on the international scene this season. But now comes a ray of hope in the principal competition for the most coveted trophy — the European Champions Cup. Leeds United, who had made such an incredibly poor start to the League campaign, managed to overcome a traumatic managerial change and a string of injuries, to recover their poise and are even favoured to retain their championship title. And at their best, the Yorkshire club need not fear any of the remaining contenders in the European Cup, since the biggest favourites, the holders Bayern Munich and CF Barcelona are, as I write, experiencing a deep crisis.**

Leeds, on their own, are carrying the banner not only for England but for the whole of British football which is suffering one of its worst ever seasons in European competitive football. Out of 14 teams representing the United Kingdom (I am excluding here the Irish Republic), which started the three tournaments this term, only Leeds have reached the quarter-finals. Compare this "balance" with West Germany, who entered six teams, but managed to get four into the last eight of the three contests.

## Pairing

Tradition is against Leeds, for in nearly 20 years of competition only one English club succeeded in carrying off the richest prize, the Champions Cup. That was Manchester United, nearly seven years ago, not forgetting that they played for it virtually at home, at Wembley!

Leeds' pairing with the Belgians' champions RSC Anderlecht revives memories of this club having provided the first opposition to an English team in the Champions Cup — yes, it was against Manchester United, way back in 1956.

Anderlecht were then humiliated by the famous "Busby Babes", going down 10-0 at Old Trafford and by 2-0 in Brussels.

But times have changed. The Belgians, a record 16 times champions of their country, have at last abandoned their style of play which made them the aristocrats of the European soccer arenas. They had grace, poise, artistry and panache — but apart from friends, Anderlecht could not win any international trophies.

# EDS CARRY NON JACK

Teams like Real Madrid, Benfica and later the giants from Milan were usually barring the way and in addition, British sides with their physical approach, tough tackling and getting "stuck in", made short work of Anderlecht's fancy footwork and frail technique. Then the Belgians fell victims to Glasgow Rangers, Dundee, Liverpool and Manchester United (again).

But with the change in methods Anderlecht added a touch of agression to their technical and tactical know-how, eventually becoming physically suited to cope with even the hardest opponents. The most convincing sign of their improvement came in the Fairs Cup tournament in 1969-79, when Anderlecht, after eliminating Valur of Iceland, put out in succession Coleraine, Dunfermline and the holders Newcastle. Then, after they removed redoubtable Inter-Milan in the semi-final, Anderlecht lost the final to Arsenal only by the narrow margin of 3-4, from home and away legs.

## Witnessed

Today the Belgian champions are fully equipped to extend any British side, including Leeds. Belgian football has made great strides in recent years, as witnessed by their national team gaining third place in the last European Championship. And in the World Cup qualifying series Belgium failed to reach the finals, although they did not lose a match and didn't even concede a goal in six games! But Holland went through, thanks to superior goal difference of 24-2, to Belgium's 12.0. . . .

**Anderlecht, who are making their eleventh appearance in the Champions Cup, have more experience of this particular tournament than any of their remaining rivals. Their team currently forms the backbone of the national side, who in the last two internationals fielded seven of their players against France, and six men v. East Germany.**

Star of the Anderlecht outfit is Paul Van Himst, now 32, who was recently voted Belgium's "Footballer of the Year" for the fourth time in his career. This he began brilliantly, for as a 16-year-old Van Himst played in Anderlecht's first team and then, a year later, he made his debut in the national side, and in the same season he was elected "Footballer of the Year" at the ripe age of 17! Van Himst holds a record 81 caps and remains the kingpin of both the club and the national side.

Anderlecht's all international defence is marshalled by the former Bruges centre-back Erwin Van den Daele, whilst on the left flank the former Standard Liege full-back Jean Thissen has had plenty of experience of playing against Leeds. The midfield comprises three "veteran" stars in Jan Verheyen (30), Jean Dockx (33) and, of course, Van Himst, who are experienced and not easily put out of their rhythm.

Up front the Hungarian Attila Ladinszky (ex-Feyenoord) was last season top scorer in the Belgian League with 22 goals. On the left wing there is another foreign star, Robert Rensenbrink, who played for Holland in the World Cup final. He too, was Belgium's top scorer with 16 goals in the 1972-73 season.

In goal stands his compatriot Jan Ruiter, whilst Anderlecht's reserve goalkeeper is strangely enough also a Dutchman, Leen Barth. The biggest question mark against the Belgian aces concerns their inconsistent form away from home. On their own cramped ground, the Parc Astrid, they can be a match for anybody.

In the current tournament they beat Slovan Bratislava by 3-1 and Olympiakos Piraeus (the conquerors of Celtic) by 5-11 But away Anderlecht lost 2-4 and 0-3 respectively. A point perhaps for Leeds to ponder upon, as they will have to score enough goals in the first leg at home.

## Responsible

Anderlecht's Technical Director, Constant Van den Stock, a former national team manager is responsible for the team, whilst the coach is Urbain Braems, a personal friend of Van Himst, who is in charge of tactical, technical and physical preparation.

Of Leeds' chief rivals — assuming they qualify — Barcelona seem to have the easiest task against the Swedish team Atvidaberg. There is a long winter break in Sweden, where because of ice and snow they suspend outdoor activities till April. How will Atvidaberg cope with Barcelona, whose season runs right through and who should be at their peak in March?

Their Dutch manager Rinus Michels will bank on his two world famous compatriots Chruyff and Neeskens, supported by their latest signing Mario Marinho, the Brazilian centre-back of World Cup fame, plus the Spanish stars like Marcial, Asensi and Rexach. Yet, Barcelona have made a poor start in the league championship, by their standards, and are at the time of writing, well behind their eternal foes Real Madrid.

The holders Bayern Munich will not cherish their long journey to Russia, where they play Ararat of Erevan in that capital of the Republic of Armenia. The German champions have also disappointed in the domestic league and appear to have blown their chance of keeping their title.

In the last issue of WORLD SOCCER I dealt comprehensively with their problems, now it suffices to say that under the new manager Dettmar Cramer the Bavarians are hoping to strike form quickly and to retain the trophy. Bayern still boast five members of Germany's World Cup winning side, but the problem is how to motivate them to scale yet another peak.

## Replaced

Like the Swedes, the Russians too, will not relish playing the quarter-finals in March, since their football season has ended in November and the championship does not start again till April. Ararat are also "under new management", Viktor Maslov having replaced Nikita Simonjan.

The handicap of a mid-winter lay-off may also have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the tie between Polish champions Ruch Chorzów and St. Etienne of France. The Polish cracks were riding high at the top of the league when it reached the customary winter pause early in December. In 15 matches Ruch only lost once and drew once, having established a five-point lead.

They have a number of fine players like Marx, Ostanfinski and Chojnacki and the best of all Zygmunt Maszczyk, who starred in the World Cup finals. The French have put up an astonishing display in Round Two, when they came back from 1-4 down to defeat Yugoslavia's Hajduk Split by 5-1 at home!

Under the guidance of their former international Robert Herbin (35) the "Stephanois", who boast fine players like the Revelli brothers, Merchadier and the Greek striker Triantafyllos, could yet surprise Europe.

# European news review—BELGIUM... PORTUGAL... HOLLAND...

**JUVENTUS remain League leaders in in Italy, opening a three point lead over their nearest rivals Lazio, who have been involved in some unusual results and incidents recently.**

Defeats by a single goal at the hands of the improved Roma and bottom of the table Ascoli, did nothing to improve the tempers of either the Lazio players or their supporters. The situation escalated during a training session when some watching fans started to barrack the players. It was more than a few of the Lazio lads could stand and they mounted the barriers and swapped punches with their "supporters"!

But the success story of the season looked like being that of Roma. After an appalling start in which they could not even score a goal let alone win a game they won six successive times and carried on unbeaten until the ninth hurdle when they lost at home to Torino 1-0.

And the bubble looks to have burst at last. Still trainer Niels Liedholm did a good job with the side when they were struggling so much in the opening weeks.

Sampdoria, who are among those scrambling in the bottom half of the championship, recently celebrated the occasion of centre-forward Mario Maraschi's 200th first division match.

## Promoted

A veteran of 35 now, Maraschi has seen just about every facet of Italian football since he made his debut in the 1956-57 season with Fanfulla, a fourth division club.

He moved up the scale to division three with Pro Vercelli and appeared in the first division for the first time with AC Milan in 1960-61.

Then it was back into the second division with Lazio until they were promoted.

After that he served Bologna, Vicenza, Fiorentina, Vicenza again and Cagliari before joining Sampdoria. During this time he amassed 80 league goals and was Sampdoria's leading scorer last season with six.

Maraschi's colleague Sormani, the Brazilian, is still hoping to achieve his 100th goal in Italian football. At present he is only four short.

But Sampdoria goals have been difficult to come by and with over half of the programme completed he may be pushed to achieve his target.

**THE unsettled political situation in Portugal caused the postponement of the international with Russia in Lisbon and no new date was fixed for the game. However, the league programme has gone on without interruption.**

Porto lost their lead, suffering two successive defeats, and Benfica have returned to the top of the table.

A capacity crowd watched Porto's game in Lisbon against Sporting with 10,000 Porto fans making the trip by car and train. Nelson gave the home side a 42 minute lead, but Oliveira equalised after an error by goalkeeper Damas in the 58th minute.

However, the leading goalscorer Hector Yazalde clinched the game with his 19th goal of the season ten minutes later.

The following week Porto fared even more badly, three down at half-time at home to Belenenses and finally losing 4-0. But it was the weekend of the political disturbances in the town and everything was a little unsettling.

Benfica's march back to the top of the league was jolted a little when they met lowly Academico away in Coimbra. They could only draw 0-0 but still have a two-point lead over Porto.

**Pollenius of RWD, Footballer of the Year in Belgium in 1969.**

Benfica have welcomed back Artur Jorge to senior action after a break of two years with injury. The international striker scored four goals for the second team in an 11-0 win over Odivelas and it was enough to get him on the substitute's bench against Leixoes.

## Responsible

Benfica brought him on in the second-half in this game, but it will be some time before he gets back into the swing of things.

Outstanding for Benfica recently has been centre-half Humberto Coelho who is largely responsible for the organisation of the best defence in the country; one which has conceded only seven goals in 20 games.

Trouble flared at Barreiro when the game between CUF and Setubal had to be abandoned at 1-1 after an hour following the dismissal of visiting left-winger Jacinto Joao. The crowd invaded the pitch and made further play impossible.

Another left-winger in trouble is Joaquim Dinis who received a five-game suspension after hitting an opponent while playing in a match for Sporting Lisbon.

**THE leapfrog triangle in Greece, which has enmeshed the leading three clubs, Olympiakos, Ethnikos and AEK Athens has thrown this trio out in front of the other championship contenders.**

Ethnikos beat PAOK Salonika 1-0 before a crowd of 40,000 thanks to an own goal and it was enough to keep them at the top until they played away to Atromitos where they lost 2-1 to a free kick and a penalty. AEK and Olympiakos overtook them as a result.

Then Ethnikos could only draw 0-0 at Iannina and AEK similarly dropped a point in a 1-1 draw at Panseraikos. And Olympiakas beat Panachaiki 2-1 to regain the leadership.

**THE clash of the giants in the mini league in Luxembourg saw Jeunesse D'Esch, the leaders, defeat their nearest rivals Avenir Beggen 2-1.**

Two goals in 13 minutes from Jean Pierre Hoffmann gave the champions a good start and missed chances almost caused them to regret the situation — the Moroccan Chabbi being one of their chief offenders.

In the second-half the Beggen centre-back Morocutti was sent off but they continued to enjoy the better of the exchanges and after Bamberg reduced the deficit, Jeunnesse were content to play out time.

**PSV EINDHOVEN'S unbeaten run in Holland ended on January 26 when their previously postponed fixture with Twente Enschede was fulfilled, the home side winning by the odd goal in three.**

On the same day Ajax closed the gap to one point by beating De Graafschap 3-1, with the champions Feyenoord second on the same points total of 30.

The irony of the PSV defeat came from the fact that PSV's trainer is Kees Rijvers, previously in charge of Twente. . . .

While Ajax have been steadily picking up points, both PSV and Feyenoord have been dropping them. Feyenoord were beaten 1-0 by Roda JC largely as the result of a fine defensive performance by the winners and a goalkeeping error by Eddy Treytel five minutes from

**European news review—ITALY...GREECE...**

# Juventus top... unrest causes postponement... RWD still keep unbeaten tag

the end, which allowed Stanley Bish to score.

PSV were held 1-1 at home by MVV Maastricht despite taking an eighth-minute lead through top scorer Willy Van der Kuylen. Jo Bonfrere equalised.

However, the Philips Electrical club pulled off an important 3-2 win over Feyenoord in Rotterdam which should have enabled them to move more decisively ahead in the championship race.

## Equalised

In this game Willy Van der Kerkhof opened the scoring for them after 21 minutes from a pass by his twin Rene and Willy Kreuz equalised from a free-kick four minutes later. But PSV led at half-time, as a minute before the interval Ralf Edstrom, playing despite a broken nose, combined with Willy Van der Kerkhof to give Van der Kuylen his chance.

Feyenoord missed the absent Wim Jansen in midfield and despite bringing on substitute Lex Schoenmaker lost another goal when Van der Kuylen scored in 55 minutes.

Near the end Schoenmaker reduced the arrears from a penalty for a harmless handling offence.

Bottom club Haarlem produced a shock by beating Twente 1-0 which makes the Enschede club's result with PSV all the more interesting of course.

Bjerre of RWD.

Boskamp of RWD.

**RWD MOLENBEEK continue their all-conquering way and after 23 league games this season are the only unbeaten team in Western Europe.**

Taking the three matches of last season's programme into account, RWD have now equalled the record of 26 games without defeat held by Waregem.

Waregem lost to RWD 3-1 in game number 25 and the following week bottom of the table Winterslag were thrashed 5-1. But the league leaders, who have a six-point lead over their nearest rivals Anderlecht, had their stiffest task set them in Bruges.

Before a 35,000 crowd, FC Bruges took a 2-0 lead after an hour but two goals in the space of three minutes brought the scores level for RWD who showed the maturity of champions.

RWD strikers Eddy Koens and Jacques Teugels have 15 goals each to lead the goalscoring list, though Ostende's Jan Simoen is holding on well with the same number.

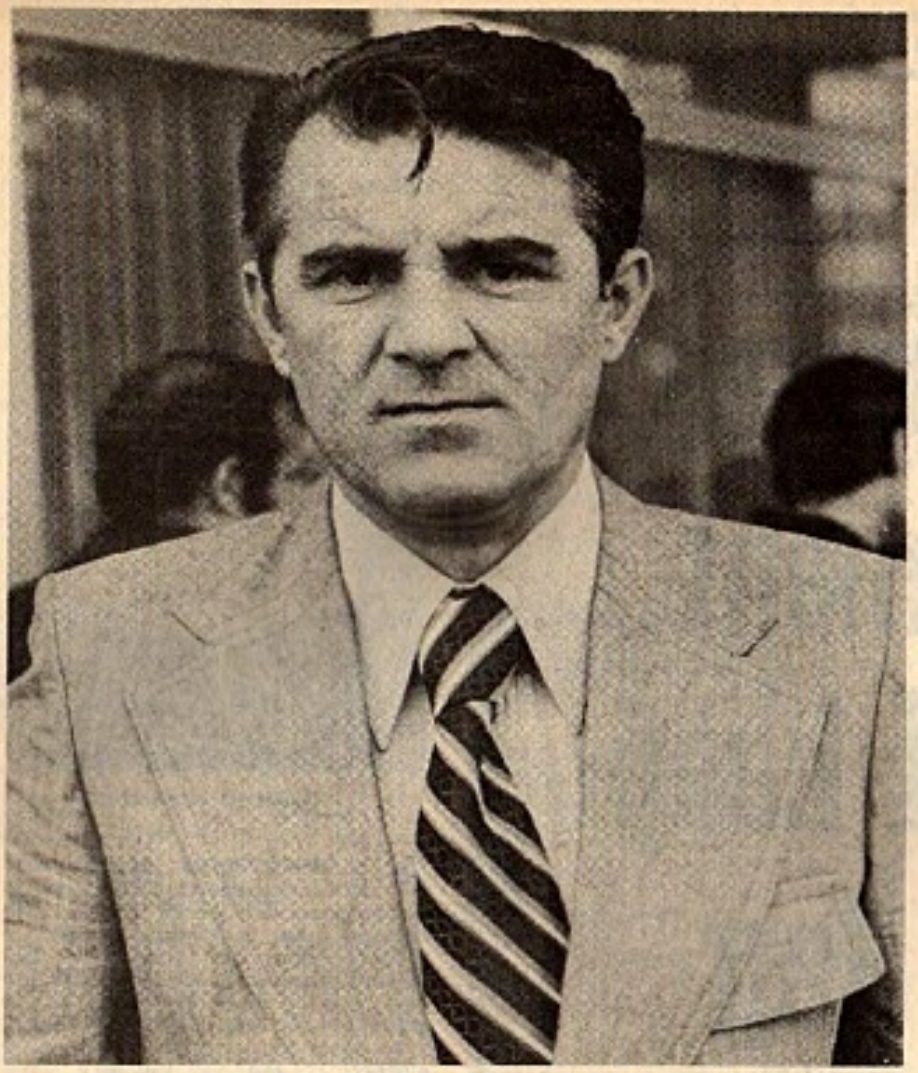
The Liege clubs are enjoying mixed fortune at present with Standard failing yet again to beat Beerschot at home. They could only draw 1-1 with them and it is now 20 years since they beat these particular opponents in the corresponding game.

FC Liege are third from the bottom and in danger of being relegated and their only relief has been a 3-0 win over Olympic Montignies in which Claude Bissot scored all three goals.

Anderlecht have been drawn against Leeds United in the European Cup and were watched recently by the English club's chief scout Tony Collins, who was surprised to find they have a dozen internationals on their books and can field an entire 11 except a goalkeeper with full honours.

# Whe

# not



Miljan Miljanic, now the manager of Real Madrid.

**WHEN is a contract not a contract? The answer seems to be, whenever a player feels strongly enough that his life is his own and that where he plays and for how long is a matter for him to decide.**

It's a controversial question in Britain right now of course and it might please Derek Dougan and the Professional Footballers' Association to know that the idea of freedom of contract has even penetrated the Iron Curtain and become reality in Yugoslavia.

It took legal action to force the point, but the senior civil court in Belgrade has ruled recently that at the end of his contract a player can switch to whichever club he wishes and does not need the permission either of his old club or the FA.

The only right given to the clubs is to fix the period of the contract for up to a maximum of four years.

The case was fought by international defender Miroslav Boskovic, formerly of champions Hajduk Split, and who just happens to be a law student. His contract expired last summer and he wanted to return to Belgrade where all his family ties are.

Partizan, six times champions, were only too keen to sign him, but Hajduk refused to release him. Eventually Boskovic's team-mates sent a petition to club officials and, after five months' wrangling, the transfer went through.

But this didn't stop Boskovic going on with his court case against the Yugoslav football federation, and the ultimate decision that no club may hold a player beyond his contract could have far-reaching effects.

## Contracts

In the past the federation have not allowed players to go to foreign clubs until they are at least 28. Now the way appears open for all the top players to leave the country at the end of their present contracts and the backlash as far as the national team is concerned could be disastrous.

Most first division players earn between £25 and £50 a week basic, and would jump at the chance of a big contract in Holland or West Germany.

International goalkeeper Enver Maric (aged 26 of Velez Mostar—in whom Bayern Munich are interested), national captain Jozip Katalinski (also 26, of Zeljeznicar Sarajevo) and schemer Jovan Acimovic (another 26-year-old, of Red Star) could all be among the first to go —their contracts expire at the end of this season.

Some top managers are complaining that freedom of contract is democracy gone mad, but then, they should know . . .

Several months back the federation named Ante Mladinic, the former national youth coach, to take over the full national team after Miljan Miljanic's defection to Real Madrid. Yugoslavia's first match under him was the 1-0 win over Italy and since then the Slavs, in the same European Championship group as Northern Ireland, have also beaten Norway 3-1.

## Autumn

Now the FA want to confirm Mladinic in his post, but to do so they first had to ask permission of the Managers' Association — and it seems that Mladinic's colleagues have their doubts, for they've so far postponed making a decision!

Either way, the situation seems much healthier in Yugoslavia now — so much so in fact that Josip Skoblar has gone back there to play after nearly ten years in the West adding a fortune to his fame.

**It seemed that Skoblar now allegedly 33 (?), was lost to soccer when he decided to retire after Marseille, the French club who have benefited from his goals for the past five years, decided last autumn to "go Brazilian". First they signed Paulo Cesar after the World Cup Finals and then, incredibly, they snapped up Jairzinho — no doubt all due to the influence of their new trainer, Claudio Coutinho, Mario Zagalo's right hand man in West Germany.**

With these two around and the French operating a two-foreigners rule, there was clearly no place for Skoblar and he told club president Ferdinand Meric that he preferred to retire there and then rather than hang about on the periphery playing the occasional friendly.

Meric agreed, even arranging a testimonial match against Real Madrid — Barcelona's Cholo Sotil and Mario

# en is a contract a contract?

asks Keir Radnedge

Marinho guested for Marseille — and Skoblar was thus able to plan major new and expensive developments for his sports goods shop in the city.

Now, however, he's left the shop in the charge of his wife and gone back to play for FC Rijeka in the Yugoslav first division!

Rijeka, one point from the bottom of the table at the halfway stage, see Skoblar as the man to lift them to safety and it seems that Marseille manager Jules Zvunka wasn't too upset when he heard about Joschi's change of heart.

## Brilliant

Clearly Zvunka think's he's way over the hill, but Skoblar's record still looks pretty good. He left Yugoslavia and OFK Belgrade for Hannover 96 in 1966 and joined Marseille—after a brief spell on loan—2½ years later. He had never settled in West Germany, but in France his brilliant ball control and cheeky goals enthralled the crowds.

He scored 201 goals in five years and in 1971 scored 44 times to break the league record, take Marseille to the championship and win the Golden Boot as Europe's top marksman.

In one match alone he scored six times —a feat accomplished by only three other players in French first division history—and the following season was on song again as Marseille swept to the Cup and League double.

Yet as Skoblar quits France to go back to Eastern Europe, so another Iron Curtain star makes the trip in the opposite direction.

He's Robert Gadocha, the Polish World Cup left winger, who went on a brief strike when his transfer demand was turned down in the autumn, and who has broken a promise to sign a "birthday present" contract with Nantes.

## Lucrative

At the start of the season, after the Polish FA had told Gadocha that he couldn't take up a lucrative offer from Bayern, he refused to play both for the national team and his club, Legia Warsaw. The FA, realising that Gadocha was vital to their European Championship chances — relented a little and promised to reconsider later.

**So Gadocha started playing, but even so, when Legia came to France to play Nantes in the UEFA Cup, they left Gadocha at home just to ensure that there was no chance of his escaping to the West. The player might have permitted himself a wry smile when Nantes won 3-2 on aggregate.**

Gadocha, who has 60 caps, had a hand in no fewer than 12 of Poland's 16 goals in the World Cup Finals and was described by Stefan Kovacs as the "best left winger in the world".

But it wasn't until a few weeks ago that a hint was dropped that Gadocha might be allowed to move. The Polish FA secretary, on a trip to West Germany, admitted that players would now be allowed to leave when "they are approaching 30".

Now Gadocha was 29 on January 10 and Nantes were first off the mark in contacting him. They had one major advantage. Manager Robert Budzinski played for France in the 1966 World Cup Finals, but his family background is Polish and he flew several times to Warsaw to discuss terms with Gadocha.

The result was that Gadocha, in whom both Bayern and rival suitors Ajax appeared to have lost interest, signed a contract for 3½ years.

Not so happy are Legia: They made Gadocha promise just before the World Cup Finals that he would steer clear of any offers from the West. Gadocha's World Cup skipper, Kazimierz Deyna, also of Legia, but two years younger,

● Continued on page 42

# PSV BREAK AJAX AND FEYENOORD GRIP IN HOLLAND

● Continued from page 9

Feyenoord strengthened their defence a couple of years ago with the 29-year-old Yugoslav, Mladen Ramljak, and 28-year-old Harry Vos from PSV; they even bought the former Admira Energie striker Willy Kreuz from Sparta Rotterdam last summer to strengthen the attack and he, like Geels, has responded with 14 goals so far this term.

Yet little has gone right for Coerver himself and he blames pressures inside the club for forcing him to set a departure date.

The injury jinx which has struck down 23-year-old Wim Rijsbergen so often hasn't helped, but it could also be that Coerver isn't the most popular of managers after his decision to let 32-year-old Rinus Israel, their former skipper, go to Excelsior on a free transfer.

He's been playing magnificently lately and nearly sneaked back into the national team when it seemed that Rijsbergen might have to miss the match with Italy!

Coerver joined Feyenoord from NAC in 1973, following the Austrian, Ernst Happel, who had led the club to the 1970 Champions' Cup triumph. It is no secret that several of the senior players would like to see Happel recalled from Bruges, but his isn't the only name being canvassed. High on the wanted list is Kazimierz Gorski, the 53-year-old Polish manager.

But since the Poles have shown marked reluctance to release their top players it's hardly likely that they'll part with the men who guided them to the Olympic title in 1972 and third place in the World Cup. Meanwhile—just as an afterthought — it is whispered in Barcelona that 46-year-old Rinus Michels will quit this summer whether Cruyff and company bring back the Champions' Cup or not . . .

# ERIC BATTY looks at the reasons behind the de

# Euro is th

**ONE of the great football mysteries of the day has been the dramatic collapse of CF Barcelona, who, last season romped away with the Spanish title after a disastrous start and now, as I write with 18 games played, trail seven points behind the leaders Real Madrid.**

On paper, the Barcelona squad is quite as good as that of Real Madrid and though the new Real boss, the Yugoslav Miljan Miljanic, has worked a new miracle in Madrid, there can be no doubt of the capabilities of CFB's boss Rinus Michels.

Madrid have Netzer and Breitner as well as the "Paraguayan" Spaniard, Roberto Martinez but CFB have Cruyff, Neeskens and Marinho as well as a string of Spanish caps as long as your arm. In theory the two sides look equal and there should be a royal battle going on between the two, both sides going neck and neck with the result of the championship in doubt until the last ball of the season has been kicked.

But this is to over-simplify matters and to forget that football is played by human beings.

Inevitably, Barcelona fans and the Catalan journalists are divided on what has gone wrong and at different times, varying explanations have had a lot of support.

## Shoulders

Many people lay the responsibility fairly and squarely on the shoulders of Johan Cruyff, the super-star who joined them from Ajax after last season was well underway and CFB were struggling in the bottom half of the table. He gave them such a lift that they ran away with the championship.

Others have blamed the defence and it must be conceded that in this era when defensive tactics are paramount almost everywhere, the Barcelona rear-guard has contrived to give away several silly goals and some of them have proved very costly in terms of points.

Equally, others have blamed the attack as a whole while Rinus Michels was recently quoted as saying that in his view it was the link between mid-field and the attack that had ceased to function effectively.

One Barcelona critic who seemed to me to get closest to the mark wrote after the 0-1 defeat away to Atletico Bilbao: "Cruyff is not the same but neither is he completely responsible." He went on to say: "If Cruyff revitalised CFB last season, transforming Barcelona into a champion without a rival how can it now be said that he is uniquely and directly responsible for all their problems?"

It should be recognised that the arrival of Johan Neeskens has not contributed as much to the CFB performance as was expected. Neeskens himself said some time ago that he was surprised to find how "tough" the Spanish game was and hampered by a nagging injury reckons that he has only been able to give around 80 per cent of his usual self.

Hyper-critics have brought nationalist feelings into the widespread discussions, suggesting that Michels was prejudiced, favouring two Dutchmen; for the arrival of Neeskens inevitably meant that with only two foreigners allowed per club, the Peruvian star Hugo 'Cholo' Sotil has spent this season sitting on the side-lines.

Sotil, of course, is a great artist with the ball and played a big part in the 1974 championship success. He won a great many admirers for his style of play for he is a ball juggler in the class of Len Shackleton, George Best and Dragoslav Sekularac.

But Sotil is also an individualist and if his play last season did show that he had become a little more aware that football is a team game, he remains a ball-artist above all — like an extremely attractive decoration on top of a cake or a Christmas tree.

Some Catalan fans prefer Sotil to Cruyff, this group even suggesting that Cruyff was jealous of Sotil's popularity and persuaded Michels (who definitely needed no persuasion) to sign Neeskens so that Sotil could not play.

**This serves to underline how seriously the Catalans view their football and how vicious and unfair they can be when things turn sour. One recalls how lynch-gangs toured the streets of Barcelona looking for Helenio Herrera back in 1960 when HH took CFB to two consecutive league championships but were put out of the European Cup semi-final by Real Madrid. After the second leg in Barcelona I really believe there was a section of the CFB fans who would have hung Herrera if they had got their hands on him.**

## Campaign

Perhaps this is a good point to consider some hard facts. First Cruyff began the league campaign like a house on fire, scoring three goals in the first four games. Since then he has scored only twice in 14 league matches and now after 18 games Neeskens (mostly with penalties) and Clares are equal top scorers with . . . six goals each.

To those who blame the attack — CFB have scored 37 goals to date, exactly the same number as Real Madrid and far more than any other side bar Zaragoza — who have 31 to their credit.

To those who blame the defence — CFB have conceded 24, which is five more than the leaders Real Madrid — but this is accounted for by one match which could explain a great deal. This was the 2-5 defeat suffered at the ninth hurdle away in the Barcelona derby game to RCD Espanol.

Take away those five goals and CFB's goals tally would be precisely the same as Madrid's but it could be that the result of that derby had a far deeper impact than was realised at the time.

Since then Barcelona's star has certainly waned, even though they bounced back a week later to hammer Celta 4-0, a game in which the Brazilian Mario Marinho made his debut . . . and scored a goal.

From then on, between the eleventh and seventeenth games Barcelona won two, drew one and lost four, and this allowed Real Madrid to consolidate their position by opening up a six-point gap. Results in this period include 0-1 defeats away to Betis, Elche, Real Madrid (where CFB won 5-0 last season) and Bilbao and it was at that point that the critic I mentioned earlier, produced his piece . . . *Cruyff no es el mismo, pero tampoco el responsable*".

In the next game, the last one at the moment of writing, Cruyff rebounded a little to play a big part in Barcelona's home win over Real Sociedad of San Sebastian, who had previously been through nine games without defeat. In the first half, Cruyff was looking dangerous close to goal when he was chopped down for a penalty, converted by Neeskens.

Personally Cruyff played better than for some weeks and in the second half he had a big hand in the goal that settled the final scoreline, 2-0 for CFB. Juan Carlos and Rexach set up a move that finished with a pass to Cruyff who thumped a shot against a post for Asensi, following up to push in after beating three opponents to the rebound.

## Collapse

**At this juncture, with 16 matches still to be played, Barcelona could still stage a comeback. But a seven-point gap will not be easy to close and would almost certainly entail something of a collapse by Real Madrid (which seems unlikely), though CFB have still to meet Netzer and company in Barcelona.**

But in my opinion that 5-2 defeat against Espanol settled Barcelona's championship chances and now Johan Cruyff will reserve his big performances for the European Cup.

Professional pride will demand that much from Cruyff. He won league titles and cup and league doubles with Ajax. He inspired Holland to a World

## the decline in fortunes of Barcelona

# ropean Cup their goal

Cup final that most Dutchmen thought was beyond their reach . . . and he gave the Catalans the championship last season for the first time in 14 years.

Certainly CFB pay him well, but there's a limit to what one can expect for your money in 1975. How can anyone, however well paid, be forced or persuaded to go through a programme of 34 kicking sessions that the league championship entails with him as the prime target?

Having won the European Cup three times with Ajax I really believe that Cruyff will produce it all in European Cup games. His contract ends in June, 1976 — one more full season — and then who knows? Back to Ajax for a pension? Or maybe the Italians will open their frontiers?

### Conductor

The Catalans have paid their money and got a championship. I think they'll also get the European Cup for the first time but those who expect blood from Johan Cruyff are wishing for the moon. Here is a man who is undoubtedly the best player in the world today, a magnificent conductor of the CFB Orchestra and also a great soloist. But he doesn't write the music.

To be very fair, the world has changed in the last two decades. Players don't play for love anymore. It's money that counts. Though it's sad, and difficult for me (and countless others) to accept that it should be so it's money that counts in this modern world of ours in which almost everything that isn't animal is made of plastic or man-made fibres.

**Some time ago in this magazine I tried to draw a comparison between Cruyff and the incomparable Alfredo Di Stefano, and this I believe is what the disillusioned Catalans are subconsciously doing now.**

Unfortunately for CFB fans and regretfully for the game as a whole the world has changed and as a result the game has changed too. How could it be otherwise?

Don Alfredo remains the greatest player I ever saw. In addition to all his technical, intellectual and physical qualities he also seemed to me to have a beautiful, wonderful arrogance and love for the game that made him "play" every time he put his boots on.

Even in friendlies he would walk out into the middle of the arena like a torero, wave to acknowledge the cheers and small the atmosphere. This was the stage he loved and the 100,000 had come to see HIM. He never disappointed them because his pride wouldn't let him.

Between 1956 and 1960 the European Cup *belonged to* Di Stefano and it was only with the greatest reluctance, that he ever let it go. This I believe sums up CFB's problems. Their fans wanted a Di Stefano and they only got a Cruyff.

ONLY A CRUYFF? Even Santos have lost their Pele and any other club in the world (and their fans) would pay another million dollars and welcome him. Maybe the Catalans expect too much for their money.

Johan Neeskens in action for Barcelona against Real Sociedad.

# Chelsea goalkeeper PETER BONETTI says

# FOUR-STEP RULE IS A CURSE

**SINCE its introduction the four-step rule for goalkeepers has been the source of more criticism, and more headaches, than any other rule I can think of.**

Not only has the rule made the goalkeeper's job a much more difficult one, it has defeated its own object inasmuch that it was designed to speed the game up and has succeeded only in doing the opposite. I feel, therefore, it would be fair to raise the question: "Should the four-step rule be discarded?" My own feeling, and that of almost every professional I have spoken to, is that it should.

I have given two reasons why and these are easily illustrated. You can see these points in any match you watch. First, that it makes a goalkeeper's job harder is obvious.

Unlike when the "run and bounce" rule was in operation, the goalkeeper, who is restricted to taking only four steps with the ball, faces a tough task when he is being challenged by an opposing forward.

## Space

If a forward is charging at him, he has very little space to get out of the way and if in another instance, a forward stands in front of him when he is about to make a clearance, it is plain that his distribution of the ball is going to be seriously affected.

Under the old law, a goalkeeper could "pick his man" with a drop kick or throw but nowadays, if he is being challenged, the kick or throw is hurried and often misplaced.

My second point — that the rule has not succeeded in speeding things up — is closely connected with the first. Again, if a forward is standing directly in front of the goalkeeper and he can't get a kick or throw in, play is held up, often for some moments.

Similarly, you will often see a goalkeeper roll the ball if the "box" is clear. Here, the goalkeeper is making use of the penalty area and taking the ball as far upfield as he can.

He will then take the kick and he is able to pick his man, BUT, this process is a whole lot slower than running and bouncing the ball as he could do under the old law.

I can appreciate that the Governing Body wants to do everything in its power to banish any time-wasting tactics, but it is on the wrong track with the four-step rule and I echo the sentiments of many when I call for its abolishment.

If we stick to the four steps, the only improvement I can suggest is that forwards be stopped from standing in front of the goalkeeper when a clearance is to be made. This would not solve the problem completely, but it would be a step in the right direction. I do, however, offer a suggestion which would replace the four-step rule and would have the desired effect of helping the game to flow quicker. My solution would be to allow the goalkeeper to have four bounces of the ball and one bounce every four steps.

## Chance

That would give him 16 steps in which to make his clearance, and at the same time, gives him the chance to reach the edge of the "box", and to evade oncoming forwards.

This, obviously, is similar to the old law but there is a limit to the number of steps he can take. And I am sure the game would move on quicker if this idea was put into practice. It would also go a long way in helping to stop the many petty arguments that crop up between goalkeeper and forward, sometimes out of sheer frustration.

## Public

Perhaps if they were able to revert to the old law completely and leave any dubious tactics to the referee's discretion, the public would see much better football than they do at the moment.

Another point I would make against

the four-step rule is that it is not internationally understood — there is a different interpretation in a number of European countries. For example, before a match in Amsterdam, the Hungarian referee told me, through an interpreter, that I was not allowed to roll the ball. Once I picked it up, I had to get rid of it. Now surely, as a universal game, the law of football should be the same everywhere. The four-step law is definitely not!

In calling for a change of the law, may I suggest that the Governing Body calls a meeting with a number of goalkeeper's to hear their views. The players were not consulted before the law was introduced but, after all, they are the ones who have to put up with it.

## Leslie Vernon reports on the Hungarian scene

# Cross country race ordered by authorities was irrelevant

**THE close season—quiet as a tomb—is coming to a welcome end in Hungary. Running, the current craze, which is considered the answer to all prayers, has received its final accolade.**

The Football Association arranged a cross-country race, in which all professional (I beg your pardon, contracted) players were duty bound to take part. Of the 330 hopefuls, Pinter, the Honved midfielder, finished first—his time: 13.37 mins. for 4000 metres.

Lajos Basti of Salgotarjan was the last man home, but even the stragglers were greeted with a great deal of appreciation from the enthusiastic crowd.

If you think that all this is completely irrelevant, please lodge your complaints with the brains behind this scheme. But let's not sneer. When you are down, you clutch at every straw, and if the Magyars think that their first priority at this "moment of time" is stamina building and running ability, who am I to disagree?

Anyway, if their players do get to the ball first, perhaps eventually they'll discover what to do with it. At least, in the matter of setting-out the fixtures, they have recognised the folly of playing twice-a-week. During the spring campaign, there will be a league round every Saturday, with midweek Cup ties.

### Attractive

From the middle of March, the national squad will meet regularly, but there will be league football four days before the all-important European Championship tie v. Wales. The domestic Cup Final is fixed for May 1, and the season will end on May 31 with an attractive double-header at the Nepstadium—Dozsa v. Honved, Ferencvaros v. Vasas! Here is the programme for the national side on full and U-23 levels.

**Full:** March 26 v. France (a) (friendly). April 2 v. Austria (a) (E.C.). April 16 v. Wales (h) (E.C.). May 7 v. Bulgaria (a) (Olympic Games qualifying match). June 3 v. USSR (h) (friendly). June 7 v. Bulgaria (h) (O.G. second-leg).

**U-23:** March 26 v. France (h) (friendly). April 2 v. Austria (a) (E.C.).

In 1974, Hungary played 8 full international games, won 4, drew 1 and lost 3. Percentage-wise, this is an improved record compared with the previous year, but the defeat at Cardiff puts a shadow over the picture. Only Laszlo Fazekas played in every game, goalkeeper Meszaros was capped 7 times, and Balint missed two games.

Altogether, 36 players were used—11 of them new internationals. Whether this enormous turn-over of individuals indicates panic or a desire to cast the net of the selectors wide, is a point of argument.

But it is certain that they haven't got a settled side, and early league form will decide the make-up of the squad for the friendly in Paris. Of the 11 goals netted in 1974, Fazekas got 4, Mate and L. Nagy two each, Balint, Bene and J. Horvath one each. As over half the Hungarian supporters are devotees of Ferencvaros, the European Cup Winners Cup quarter-finals draw was an eagerly awaited event.

When Malmo came out of the hat, there was a sigh of relief, and most fans expect to see their heroes progress. But inside the Fradi camp, the premature celebrations are laced with caution.

**Coach Jeno Dalnoki said: "I am glad that we have avoided the really big guns. But the Swedes are no mugs—they k.o'd us in the World Cup and Malmo are their current champions." Goalkeeper Geczi added: "I have only pleasant memories of Sweden. I have played there twice and we won on both occasions. We ought not to slip up against Malmo—Dozsa beat them comfortably a couple of seasons ago."**

### Feature

Perhaps the saddest feature of the close season has been the partial demise of a once great club. The powers that be have decided that M.T.K. and Egyetertes should merge, because separately, they no longer represent a viable sports club.

The interested parties duly accepted the recommendation, and the new outfit has been named MTK-VM SK. Egyetertes, a club sponsored by the catering industry, has been practically homeless for some time, and the football section has been playing-off their matches at various surburban venues.

They were searching for an identity and tried hard to build-up some kind of a local following. On the other hand, MTK have a glorious history. They have played a leading part in the development of Hungarian football. At the time of the "wonder-team", they were called Voros Lobogo (Red Banner), and their players Lanto, Zakarias, Hidegkuti and Sandor were just a few of their established internationals.

In later years, the club has still been a dominant force in Hungary, and they were beaten finalists in the Cup Winners Cup in 1964. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that the merger favours the blues and whites. Their coach, Imre Kovacs, remains in his job, and he is only interested in four or five ex-Egyetertes players.

### Regulations

In accordance with the regulations, all games played by Egyetertes in the first half of the season are now void, and only 15 teams will be involved in Division I football in the coming campaign.

On the new league table, Doza's lead is increased to five points, and Vasas and Haladas share the bottom spots (only one team will be relegated).

### REVISED LEAGUE TABLE:

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ujpest Dozsa** | **14** | **13** | **1** | **0** | **42** | **12** | **27** |
| Honved | 14 | 9 | 4 | 1 | 28 | 8 | 22 |
| Ferencvaros | 14 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 25 | 12 | 18 |
| Csepel | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 21 | 14 | 17 |
| Zalaegerszeg | 14 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 18 | 14 |
| Videoton | 14 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 16 | 21 | 14 |
| Diosgyor | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 17 | 20 | 13 |
| Raba Eto | 14 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 21 | 21 | 12 |
| Bekescsaba | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 21 | 12 |
| MTK-VM SK | 14 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 12 |
| Pecs | 14 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 11 |
| Tatabanya | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 16 | 10 |
| Salgotarjan | 14 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 12 | 22 | 10 |
| Vasas | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 26 | 9 |
| Haladas | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 12 | 27 | 9 |

# INTERNATIONAL MICROSCOPE

# POLAND

## Long struggle to gain parity but success is achieved

Kazimierz Deyna of Poland and Legia Warsaw.

**AMONG the late starters, Poland's involvement with international football began in 1921 and their struggle for parity with the rest of the world has been long and hard. In the early, amateur years, their opponents were largely their Baltic neighbours, interspersed with occasional games against stronger neighbours to the south — Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary.**

To underline their humble beginnings, not many countries have been beaten by both Albania and Latvia (now part of the Soviet Union) but by 1936 they had improved enough to beat Hungary 3-0; Great Britain 5-4 and reach the semi-finals of the 1936 Olympic Games. Olympic matches it should be noted have been excluded from the above figures, even though many of the matches included cover the period when the Polish game was amateur.

### Mainstream

The 1939-45 war followed by the self-imposed exile from the mainstream of international football (in common with all East European countries) did not end until the middle fifties and by that time there was a great deal of leeway to make up.

The period between 1955 and 1970 was marked by the presence of several outstanding players but inconsistent results which stemmed largely from lack of experience at top level. In matches against Finland, Turkey and Luxembourg, Poland would win by big scores, only to lose by fairly wide margins when they began to clash with the stronger football nations in competitive matches.

### General

This was the era of Ernst Pol and Lujcan Brychczy, an outstanding pair of inside forwards to whom the Polish game owes a great deal. It was also during their time that Wlodzimierz Lubanski first appeared to be capped at 16 and go on to become the finest all-round player Poland has yet produced.

Brychczy played for Legia Warsaw, having a big hand in their rise to eminence within Poland and as an international star, demonstrating his superb skills as the midfield general. He went on almost endlessly, still being capped at 35 and boosted his total of international appearances to 60 which was then a record.

Pol had much of Brychczy's skill but was also a formidable finisher too, making goals for others and scoring himself as all the truly great forwards do. In internationals Pol scored 40 goals —another record for a while—in his 49 international matches.

# First in a new series by Eric Batty

Pol and Lubanski played together for Gornik Zabrze for a time, the latter going on to surpass both his peers, breaking Brychczy's caps record and Pol's international goals tally before that disastrous injury in 1973 that seems to have put an end to his career. This is a tragedy not only for Lubanski himself, his club Gornik and of course Poland, but also for the game as a whole, for Lubanski at his brilliant best was a sight indeed, a player worth going a very long way to see.

Strangely, Warsaw played a very minor role in the development of the game in Poland, the early pace-makers being the multitude of clubs in and around the old city of learning, Cracow or Krakow. Cracow is still a soccer centre with their First Division club Wisla rarely having a bad season but not quite able to match the new giants.

In the 1930's Ruch Chorzow took four consecutive championships and provided the backbone of the team for the 1936 Olympics but in the fifties two other clubs entered the arena, Legia Warszawa . . . the Army team and Gornik Zabrze, neighbours of Ruch in the Silesian coalfield. It was players from these two clubs that were to spearhead Poland's final drive to the forefront of the world scene.

1970 was the turning point for Polish football, a year in which Gornik Zabrze reached the final of the European Cup Winners Cup, and Kazimierz Gorski took over the national team.

## Cracking

**Gornik had been close to the top rank for two or three years, having reached the quarter finals of the European Cup, then having to meet Manchester United at a time when they had not begun playing again after the customary three month winter break, containing Law, Best, Charlton & Co, for 80 minutes, playing a lot of fine football in counter attacks, before cracking when with less than ten minutes left, centre back Stanislav Oszlizo put through his own goal. Even so, Gornik only went out 2-1 on aggregate and deserved better.**

This had been an apt summary of Polish football's achievements until then—skilful play but a combination of lack of experience in the top bracket and a consequent lack of belief in themselves when they did meet a giant—for club or country.

Gorski was to change all that, drawing on the stars of Legia and Gornik, developing a new team spirit within his national squad, building up belief in themselves and, even if all the pieces he required to complete his jig-saw were there ready for him, he must be given the credit for recognising the abilities of the players he needed, which is a great deal more than can be said for many international team managers who appear to live in private little dream worlds of their own.

Building on a basically two club squad, Legia and Gornik, Gorski led his team to success in the 1972 Olympic Games where they beat Hungary 2-0 in the final and Kazimierz Deyna scored both goals from openings created by Lubanski.

## Exhibition

The next task was to qualify for the 1974 World Cup, comfortably beating England 2-0 in Chorzow and then putting on Poland's finest exhibition to date (at that time) by holding England to 1-1 at Wembley. Though the English thought they were robbed, Poles will reasonably argue that England were lucky to draw —McFarlane pulling down deputy centre forward Jan Domarski with a rugby tackle; Grzegorz Lato hesitating, when clean through, half waiting for the whistle for off-side . . . and England's consolation goal coming from a very dubious penalty of the variety which referees nowadays only give to home teams.

Still based broadly on Legia and Gornik, Poland's squad was reinforced by three players, hand-picked by Gorski and transforming a very good team into an outstanding one.

Andrzej Szarmach joined Gornik Zabrze from a Second Division club in 1972 established himself quickly as Lubanski's *temporary* replacement and finally earned a late place in the team for the 1974 World Cup.

Unknown Stal Mielec provided the other two players. Henryk Kasperczak an inside forward who had been capped when young, played for both Legia and Gornik (but been rejected) and played a big part in helping Stal win the Polish championship in 1972-73.

## Forward

With him in that Stal team was Grzegorz Lato, a goalscoring centre forward whom Gorski changed into a right winger. Now all the pieces clicked into place, Poland took a well-deserved third place in the World Cup, proving to everyone but the still stubborn English that their qualification had been no fluke. With no other players scoring more goals than Lato and Szarmach they convinced many people that not only had Poland arrived in the top bracket at last, but that they were probably the best all-round football team in the World Cup.

**INTERNATIONAL RESULTS**
**POLAND**

| | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | Goals For | Goals Against |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Albania | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 4 |
| Argentina | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 |
| Austria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Belgium | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 16 | 10 |
| Brazil | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 18 |
| Bulgaria | 18 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 31 | 25 |
| Canada | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Colombia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1 |
| Czechoslovakia | 16 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 25 | 36 |
| Denmark | 12 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 23 | 25 |
| England | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Estonia | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Finland | 16 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 54 | 17 |
| France | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 15 |
| Germany, East | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 13 | 17 |
| Germany, West | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Ghana | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| Greece | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| Haiti | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| Holland | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Hungary | 19 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 18 | 68 |
| Iraq | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Ireland, North | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 |
| Ireland, Republic | 12 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 26 | 15 |
| Israel | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 3 |
| Italy | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Latvia | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 12 |
| Luxembourg | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 17 | 2 |
| Mexico | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Morocco | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 2 |
| Norway | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 40 | 18 |
| Rumania | 19 | 1 | 10 | 8 | 31 | 37 |
| Scotland | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| Spain | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 7 |
| Sweden | 14 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 29 | 32 |
| Switzerland | 4 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 8 | 6 |
| Tunisia | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1 |
| Turkey | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 9 |
| United States | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 7 |
| U.S.S.R. | 8 | 3 | 0 | 5 | 7 | 17 |
| Wales | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Yugoslavia | 17 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 38 | 44 |
| Totals | 281 | 111 | 66 | 104 | 564 | 493 |

**ALGERIA.** June 1965 (1)
**ARGENTINA.** July 1957 (1) Roca Cup; July 1957 (1) Roca Cup; April 1959 (1); July 1960 (1); April 1963 Roca Cup; April 1963 (3) Roca Cup; June 1964 Nations Cup; June 1965; March 1970; March 1970 (1)
**AUSTRIA.** March 1970; July 1971 (1)
**BELGIUM.** June 1965 (3)
**BOLIVIA.** March 1959 (1) S. Am. Ch.
**BULGARIA.** March 1958; May 1958 (2); July 1966 (1) World Cup; April 1970
**CHILE.** March 1959 (2) S. Am. Ch.; Sept. 1959 (3) O'Higgins Cup; Sept. 1959 O'Higgins Cup; May 1966; March 1970 (2); March 1970; Oct. 1970 (1)
**COLOMBIA.** Aug. 1969 World Cup; Aug. 1969 (1) World Cup

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA.** June
June 1966 (1); J
**DENMARK.** May 1960
**ENGLAND.** May 1959; Ma
1969; June 1970
**FRANCE.** June 1958 (2)
**WEST GERMANY.** May 19
**HOLLAND.** May 1963
**ITALY.** May 1963; June 1
**MEXICO.** May 1962 (1) W
(1); Sept. 1970
**PARAGUAY.** May 1958 (1
(3) S. Am. Ch.; A
April 1962 (2) C
Oswaldo Cruz C
Cup; Aug. 1969

*Pele's senior goalscoring career w*
*and ended on October 2, 1974. D*
*and scored 1,216 goals. These w*

| | |
|---|---|
| *Santos* | ..... |
| *Brazil* | ..... |
| *Sao Paulo League* | ..... |
| *Santos/Vasco da Gama* | .... |
| *Army* | ..... |
| *Sao Paulo Select* | ..... |

*His honours year by year were:*

*1957* *Roca Cup (Brazil)*
*1958* *World Cup, Oswaldo ship (Santos)*
*1959* *Bernardo O'Higgins (Sao Paulo), Mario Tournament, Mexic Herrera Cup, Valenc*
*1960* *Atlantico Cup (Bra Championship, IV*
*1961* *Costa Rica Tournam Paris Tournament, ship, Brazilian Cha Clubs Cup (Santos)*
*1962* *Oswaldo Cruz Cup, Sao Paulo Champio pionship (Santos)*
*1963* *Roca Cup (Brazil) Championship (Sant*
*1964* *Rio-Sao Paulo Tourn Championship (Sant*

1962 World Cup; June 1966 (2); June 1970 (1) World Cup

ay 1964 (1) Nations Cup; June

World Cup; April 1963 (3)
63 (1); June 1965 (1); Dec. 1968

970 (1) World Cup
World Cup; Oct. 1968; Oct. 1968

) Oswaldo Cruz Cup; March 1959
April 1962 (1) Oswaldo Cruz Cup;
Oswaldo Cruz Cup; July 1968 (2)
up; July 1968; Aug. 1969 World
(1) World Cup; April 1970

*ith Santos started on September 7, 1956. uring this time he played in 1,254 matches ere made up as follows:*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ..... | *1,114 games* | *1,088 goals* |
| ..... | *111 ..* | *96 ..* |
| ..... | *13 ..* | *9 ..* |
| ..... | *4 ..* | *6 ..* |
| ..... | *10 ..* | *14 ..* |
| ..... | *2 ..* | *3 ..* |

*Cruz Cup (Brazil), Sao Paulo Champion-*

*Cup (Brazil), Brazilian Championship Echandi Cup, Costa Rica, Pentagonal o, Rio-Sao Paulo Tournament, Tereza ia Tournament (Santos)*

*zil), Gialorosso Cup, Rome, Sao Paulo Paris Tournament (Santos)*

*ent, Guadalajara Tournament, Mexico, V Italia Tournament, Sao Paulo Champion-mpionship, South American Cup, World*

*World Cup (Brazil), South American Cup, nship, World Clubs Cup, Brazilian Cham-*

*, Rio-Sao Paulo Tournament, Brazilian os)*

*ament, Sao Paulo Championship, Brazilian os)*

Compiled by Jack Rollin

# PELE

## A WORLD SOCCER TRIBUTE

**PERU.** March 1959 (1); June 1966 (1); April 1969; April 1969 (1); June 1970 World Cup
**POLAND.** June 1966
**PORTUGAL.** May 1962; May 1962 (1); April 1963; June 1964 (1) Nations Cup; June 1965; July 1966 World Cup
**RUMANIA.** June 1970 (2)
**SCOTLAND.** June 1966
**SPAIN.** June 1966 (3)
**SWEDEN.** June 1958 (2) World Cup; June 1965 (1); June 1966
**UAR.** April 1960; May 1960 (1); May 1960
**URUGUAY.** March 1959 S. Am. Ch.; July 1960 Atlantic Cup; June 1970 World Cup
**USSR.** June 1958 World Cup; July 1965 (2); Nov. 1965 (1)
**VENEZUELA.** Aug. 1969 (2) World Cup; Aug. 1969 (2) World Cup
**WALES.** June 1958 (1) World Cup; May 1962 (1); May 1962 (2)
**YUGOSLAVIA.** Dec. 1968 (1); July 1971 (Pele's last international)
**AMAZON SELECT.** April 1970 (1)
**FIFA.** Nov. 1968
**Gaucho Sel.** May 1966
**Mineira Sel.** March 1969 (1); April 1970
**Parana Sel.** Nov. 1968
**Pernambuco Sel.** July 1969 (1)
**Sergipe Sel.** July 1969
**AIK Stockholm.** July 1966 (2)
**Atletico Mineiro.** Sept. 1969 (1)
**Bahia.** July 1969 (1)
**PSV Eindhoven.** May 1963
**Sporting Lisbon.** May 1960
**Inter-Milan.** May 1960 (2)
**Guadalajara.** May 1970 (1)
**Malmo FF.** May 1960 (2); July 1966 (2)
**Millionarios.** Aug. 1969

*1965 Hexagonal Tournament, Chile, Caracas Tournament, Sao Paulo Championship, Brazilian Championship (Santos)*
*1966 Nova Iorque Tournament (Santos)*
*1967 Sao Paulo Championship (Santos)*
*1968 Nicolau Moran Tournament, Buenos Aires, Roberto Gomes Pedrosa Tournament, Recopa Championship (Santos)*
*1969 Sao Paulo Championship (Santos)*
*1970 World Cup (Brazil), Hexagonal Tournament Chile (Santos)*
*1973 Sao Paulo Championship (Santos)*

# San Lorenzo snatch title

**SAN LORENZO won the Argentine national championship for the second time to cap a busy season during which they played 45 league matches (counting Metropolitan and National play-offs). Their previous title came in 1972 (when they also won the Metropolitan to complete the first and only "double" so far) and other winners of the national championship, started in 1967, have been Rosario Central (1971, 1973), Boca Juniors (1969, 1970), Velez Sarsfield (1968) and Independiente (1967). Curiously all five previous winners were in this season's final round.**

But talking strictly of the standard of football, San Lorenzo are poor champions. But what else could be expected? It reflected the standard of the whole tournament.

And if the day they won the title (by beating FC Oeste 3-2 in the last final round match) ended with police having to control crowds with dogs and tear gas (although police intervention this time seemed a trifle premature and harsh) it also reflected the rest of the national championship during which there had been more crowd trouble than of late.

The inclusion of more provincial non-league clubs than ever — 18 — also brought bigger financial losses, mainly due to more travelling and lower gates. The plan for next season is to reduce the number to 12 who will play all their matches at home when drawn to play any of the 20 first division clubs. It remains to be seen whether that will fix anything.

One can only say that the final round matches were hotly contested and San Lorenzo are just the team for that kind of situation — a lot of fight, a lot of running, a lot of enthusiasm, but little good soccer.

## Provincial

After the World Cup (just before the national started) many teams abandoned the traditional Argentine style to copy what they understood to be European soccer — although Rosario Central (the previous year's champions) and Estudiantes de La Plata have been playing that way for quite some time. And it turned out that such teams — San Lorenzo, Central and Velez Sarsfield — filled the top three places.

We have to go down to fourth place to find a team which played more in the traditional style — Talleres (Cordoba), the first-ever provincial non-league club to reach the final round — and they paid for it dearly by their lack of goal punch which lost them matches in which they played the better soccer.

On the other hand San Lorenzo had luck at times — and a bit of it is always necessary to win a title — but they seldom looked like title candidates and often won matches they should have lost.

**San Lorenzo have good players, but it was coach Osvaldo Zubeldia — of Estudiantes de La Plata fame — who made them play the type of soccer to win the 1974 title. He is, of course, an old hand at it, having won the Libertadores Cup three years running in this way with the La Plata club.**

The team with the best 1974 record however was Rosario Central — runners-up in both the Metropolitan and National and winners of the so-called tournament of champions to qualify two teams for the Libertadores Cup at the end of the year.

San Lorenzo's Cocco chaired off after his team won the national championship.

## National

They played 48 league games, won 32, drew nine and lost only seven (none at home) with a 99-46 goals record. Their strength lies in close marking and counter-attack. It's difficult to play well against them.

Central's World Cup player Mario Kempes — who scored both goals in the pre-Cup 2-2 draw against England — topped the 1974 scorers table with 29 goals and was also leading national championship scorer with 25. He is followed by River Plate's Morete and San Lorenzo's Scotta with 25 each.

Meanwhile the close season transfer market is in full swing, but it's more like a Persian market every day — a lot of clubs talking "big deals" although none have any money. Thus many "big deals" end up as player exchanges — although some of these are not so easy to understand.

A case in point is the exchange of Independiente's half Raimondo with River Plate's goalkeeper Perez. Raimondo is a good part of Independiente's team — the organiser in chief. Whether he will hit it off with

Mario Kempes (8), the leading scorer in Argentina, scores for Rosario Central in a national championship final round match again Velez Sarsfield.

# SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

River Plate in the same role is another matter.

On the other hand Independiente have a good goalkeeper in Gay. They may need another one, but a reserve for "half a team" doesn't make sense on the surface.

Other "big deals" are suddenly held up or off altogether when it comes to putting the cash on the table. World Cup captain Roberto Perfumo and River Plate haggled over a signing-on fee for several weeks until it came down from Perfumo's original request of £44,000 to £30,000, but when the defender finally signed on the dotted line the money wasn't there and reluctantly he had to accept half in cash and the rest in I.O.U.'s.

But the case that held the headlines for the longest time was River Plate's struggle to recapture their former international forward and coach Angel Labruna. After lengthy negotiations Labruna — who had the same financial offer from Talleres (the Cordoba club he had coached successfully during last season) — chose River Plate "because I am a River Plate man at heart".

**He is taking a monthly salary of £1,100 and bonuses which could reach £11,000 if River Plate wins the Inter-Continental Cup for the privelege of coming back as coach for the second time to "where his heart belongs".**

## Winning

The 53-year-old ex-international insider had played 512 matches — a club record — during his 27 years with River Plate, winning many championships with them, including their last in 1957.

But it wasn't so much the money but the players Labruna wanted to achieve what the club wants him for — to end their 17-year spell without a title. River Plate, short of cash although known as the "Millionarios", are doing their best to get him the players, mostly by exchange, but other clubs are reluctant to part with potential match-winners and Labruna will probably have to make do with less.

Labruna is reducing River Plate's playing staff from some 40 players to 14 to which will be added the new arrivals. This, he believes, will create a better team spirit than of late, make the remaining players feel safer of their place and cut the club's enormous wage bill and also probably assure his own salary on time — in cash, not I.O.U.'s.

Former Brazilian World Cup star, Waldir Pereira "Didi", one of many recent River Plate coaches, had similar ideas. He promoted younger players to the first team, reduced the staff, made them play nice and effective soccer which became known as Didi's "Jogo bonito", but eventually a bad run again just cost River Plate the title. Didi had to go, of course, and River Plate went back to buying players and the continual team, tactical and coach changes.

## STANDINGS

**ARGENTINA—National Championship (final round)—final standings**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **San Lorenzo** ... | **7** | **5** | **1** | **1** | **11** | **8** | **11** |
| Rosario Central . | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 16 | 13 | 10 |
| Velez Sarsfield ... | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 15 | 9 | 8 |
| Talleres (Cord.) . | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 7 |
| Independiente ... | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 6 |
| FC Oeste ..... | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 14 | 6 |
| Boca Juniors ... | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 11 | 4 |
| Newell's O. B. ... | 7 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 4 |

**PERU — National Championship (after 46 matches):**

1) Universitario de Deportes 63 pts.; 2) Union Huaral 60; 3) Defensor Lima, Sporting Cristal (1 match less) 50; 5) Union Tuman 49; 6) Alianza Lima, Colegio Nacional Iquitos 48; 8) Atletico Chalaco 47; 9) Juan Aurich 45; 10) Cianciano (1 match less) 41; 11) Melgar, Alfonso Ugarte 40; 13) Deportivo Municipal 39; 14) Atletico Grau 37; 15) Leon de Huanuco 36; 16) Sport Boys 32; 17) Walter Ormeno 31; 18) Sport Pierola 28; 19) Dep. Junin (1 match less) 26; 20) Dep. Pesquero (1 match less), Frigorifico 22; 22) Carlos Mannucci 21.

**URUGUAY — First Division (final standings)**

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Peñarol** ..... | **22** | **16** | **4** | **2** | **51** | **21** | **36** |
| Nacional ..... | 22 | 14 | 3 | 5 | 45 | 25 | 31 |
| Liverpool ..... | 22 | 14 | 3 | 5 | 47 | 29 | 31 |
| Bella Vista ..... | 22 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 31 | 30 | 24 |
| Defensor ..... | 22 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 23 | 26 | 21 |
| Danubio ..... | 22 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 32 | 32 | 20 |
| Fénix ..... | 22 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 20 | 30 | 18 |
| Wanderers ..... | 22 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 21 | 25 | 18 |
| Huracan Buceo . | 22 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 27 | 39 | 17 |
| Rentistas ..... | 22 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 25 | 40 | 17 |
| River Plate ..... | 22 | 3 | 10 | 9 | 15 | 29 | 16 |
| Cerro ..... | 22 | 5 | 5 | 12 | 30 | 41 | 15 |

**Relegation** (total of 1973 and 1974 points): Fenix 36, Huracan Buceo 33, Bella Vista 28. (Bella Vista relegated automatically, Huracan Buceo won play-off with Second Division runner-up to stay up).

**BOLIVIA** — First Division (final standings): 1) The Strongest, 2) Jorge Wilsterman.

**CHILE** — First Division (leading positions): 1) Huachipato 47 pts., 2) Palestino 44, 3) Colo Colo 42, 4) Union Española 35, 5) Dep. Concepción 32, 6) Magallanes 30.

## Keir Radnedge's Spanish scrapbook

# Handy injury

**LUMBAGO and sciatica are the "in" injuries in Spain just now. The first kept Roberto Martinez out of the Spanish team to face Scotland in Valencia and the second has provided a handy excuse for the temporary decline of Johan Cruyff and Barcelona.**

Roberto's case has received scant sympathy from the *aficionados* — it seemed too much of a happy coincidence to be true. Already under pressure over the affair of the forged(?) birth certificates, as I reported last month, it was rather too obvious that Ladislao Kubala COULD NOT leave Roberto out of the national team.

To do so would indicate that Kubala had his doubts about Roberto's qualifications. However, for Roberto to play against Scotland would add to the complications were Real Sociedad (San Sebastian) and Athletico Bilbao to win their court case alleging that Roberto is NOT qualified to play as a Spaniard.

Ultimately, after calling Roberto into the international squad for what would have been his seventh cap, Kubala had to leave him out because "the player is suffering from lumbago".

It hadn't seemed too much of an affliction the previous Sunday when he came on in Chamartin as a substitute against Valencia with 20 minutes to go and scored as Real Madrid hit back from being 2-1 down to win 3-2!

That same day also saw Barcelona hit better form than of late against Real Sociedad and win 2-0 with goals from Neeskens (penalty) and Gorriti (in his own net). But it still left them in third place with 21 points from 18 games, one point behind Zaragoza who were in turn six points behind Madrid.

Cruyff was suddenly "on song" again after a long spell in the doldrums which was explained — to loyal CFB fans at any rate — when he was whisked back to Holland for treatment for sciatica. Not that Cruyff is the first great centre-forward to suffer in this way — Alfredo Di Stefano, his great hero, was plagued continually by sciatica during his last years as a player.

### Rumours

All is not well apparently at Barcelona.

The team's loss of form, the continued uncertainty over the future of Hugo Sotil and rumours of a dressing-room altercation between Cruyff and Marcial all combined to feed rumours that the Flying Dutchman would return to Ajax at the end of the season — a year early.

All these stories have been strongly denied, but they have not eased matters for president Agustin Montal in dealing with other difficulties.

The club were planning to increase the capacity of their 110,000 Nou Camp stadium by 22,000. Now the scheme has been shelved because even Barcelona, it appears, do not have the ready cash and their members were unwilling to accept a new membership drive which would have provided most of the finance.

Nasty rumours, too, have been floating about over the role Barcelona played in the forged documents scandal.

### Untainted

Until recently CFB have been one of the few clubs untainted by all the mud-slinging. Now it has slipped out that just over two years ago they prepared a lengthy dossier on the number of players in the league whose credentials were dubious. What happened to the report is unknown.

Maliciously it has been suggested that Barcelona promised to keep it secret provided the FA opened the frontiers to a limited number of foreigners . . .

So Montal was faced with another long series of denials on the eve of that most bitter of all Spanish football matches — CFB facing Real Madrid in Chamartin.

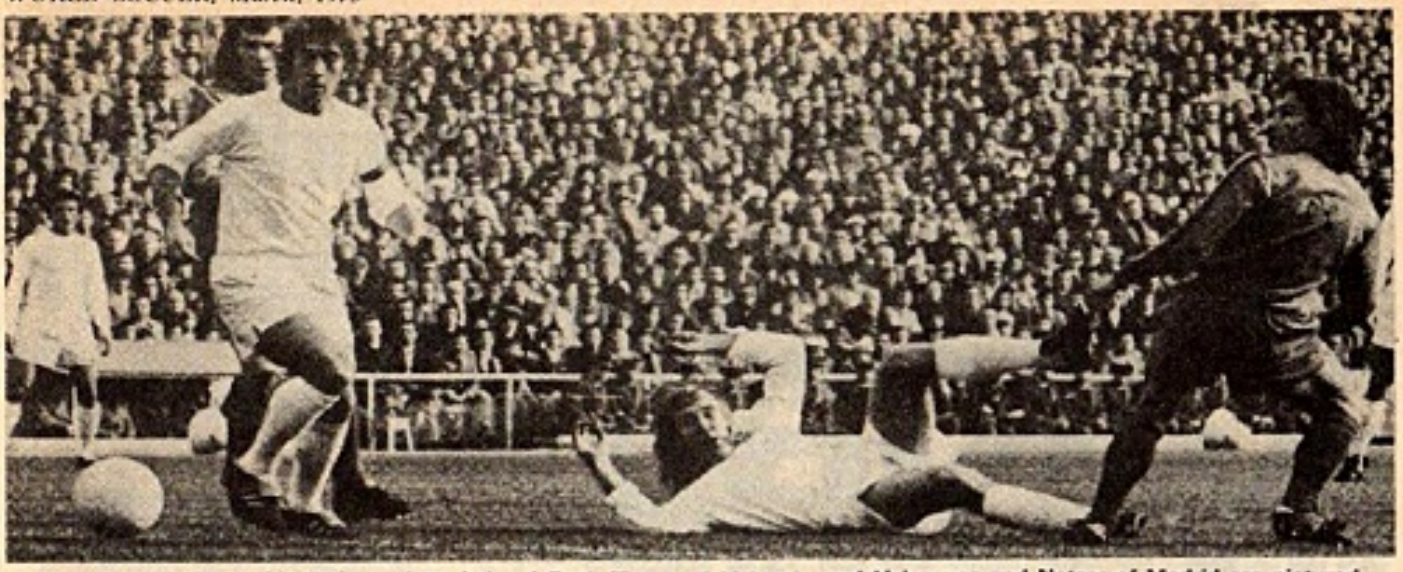
### Hammered

Real hadn't beaten Barsa in their own stadium for seven years, and indeed had been hammered 5-0 there last season. This time however the result was different — Paul Breitner sending Manolo Velazquez down the wing for the ensuing cross to be diverted into goal via Roberto Martinez and CFB defender de la Cruz.

Breitner really has been a force for Madrid in midfield — the secret behind the rejuvenation of Günter Netzer — and when Udo Lattek, lately dismissed by Bayern Munich, came to Madrid (ostensibly to visit Breitner, although he is on Atletico's wanted list) he was full of praise for the former Moenchengladbach schemer.

Although Madrid were held 0-0 at home by Sporting Gijon, Lattek explained: "I would never have recognized Netzer. I've never seen him working so hard."

Paul Breitner (right) in action for Real Madrid against Valencia. Other players, left to right: Santillana (Real), Barrachina and Sol (Valencia).



Real Madrid versus Valencia . . . Jose Luis of Real, Tirapu of Valencia, and Velazquez and Netzer of Madrid are pictured from left to right.

# REFEREES IN THE NEWS YET AGAIN!

**THE standard of refereeing is causing concern again, and no wonder. Just consider these examples of what is going on:**

1) **The Barcelona case.** It was put to me thus: "Neeskens is one of the greatest tacklers in the world. But every time now he goes in for the ball, where an English crowd would applaud, the referee says: "No". Cruyff feels responsible, because he helped bring Neeskens to Spain, so he goes to the referee and is told: "Okay, you can have a yellow card as well". Cruyff has been receiving little enough protection anyway, so it's hardy surprising that Barcelona have been inconsistent.

2) **The Seville region case.** Referees here forced the resignation of their own president, Ruiz Casasola, by threatening to go on strike on a control-and-discipline issue.

3) **The age limit case.** All Spain's referees are becoming increasingly upset over the federation's refusal to abandon the compulsory retiring age bar of 47 and are making militant noises.

4) **The case of the referee who didn't know the rules.** The occasion was a preliminary cup match between Carabanchel and Mallorca and because the referee didn't how how to administer the eventual penalties contest properly, he allowed Carabanchel to "go through to the next round" when in fact, Mallorca should have been seen to have qualified instead.

5) **The Sanchez Ibanez case.** He was Spain's World Cup referee and yet his performances this season have been far from international standard. The culmination of his troubles came when the league fined and cautioned him for insulting Carlos Alfredo Guarini of Malaga when sending the player off against Real Madrid!

Malaga, still anchored at the foot of the first division, have also had the strange experience of seeing the manager they have just fired, Marcel Domingo, being earnestly sought by Valencia, halfway up.

Valencia — at the time of writing, that is — have Emil Oesterreicher (ex Honved, Real Madrid, Torino and Espanol) as general manager with Milovan Ciric (ex Yugoslavia national team) as coach. But president Francisco Ros Caceres has been sounding out both Domingo and Sporting Gijon's Pasieguito with a view to bring one or both of them in next season.

Oesterreicher would probably be out already had Valencia not scored a stunning 5-1 win away to Murcia. Mali's Salif Keita scored twice to go top of the goals table, and Oesterreicher and Ciric were safe for a little longer.

"Want any of our players?" Oesterreicher asked Ferenc Puskas, Murcia's coach. "I'll need at least 15 just for a start," came the reply.

**Murcia's image did not exactly improve either when the news broke that one of their former defenders, Jose Luis Ponce, had been arrested by police for carrying out an armed bank raid!**

Valencia, too, have problems quite apart from the managerial situation. Full-back Miguel Angel Adorno was fined £500 and suspended for a fortnight after a row in training which resulted in Ciric sending him home. It seems that the punishment was so severe not because of the row itself, but because Adorno told journalists about it!

And that is not his only worry. Both he and centre-back Anibal Perez were summoned to appear in court over the affair of the forged documents, which drags steadily on.

At least by this time Valencia had reached a position of safety in the league thanks to a seven-match unbeaten run only ended by a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Granada, who are hoping more and more that they'll find a place in the UEFA Cup next season.

Coach Joseito will have gone then, he's already announced his impending departure, and the directors won't be too sorry when the time comes. To add insult to injury they've just banned him from making any statements to the Press save simple team line-up announcements!

Strange club, Granada. Ladislao Mazurkiewicz, signed early this season from Atletico Mineiro, has yet to play in the league and now they want to persuade Julio Montero Castillo to become a naturalised Spaniard so that they can pursue Fernando Morena, the Uruguayan centre-forward at the centre of a South American tug-of-war between Penarol and River Plate.

## Brian Glanville on the crisis at Stamford Bridge

# CHELSEA IN DIRE TROUBLE

**GOODNESS knows what predicament Chelsea will be in by the time you read this. Perhaps they will have thrown off their shackles, perhaps they will be hell bent for the Second Division. Whatever the case, they will overcome, they will survive, as they have always done in the past. There have been moments in their post-war history when their pattern and persona seem to have changed. There was 1954/5, when Ted Drake's team somewhat dourly won the League Championship for the first time in their history. There was that ecstatic period between 1970 and 1971 when they took first the F.A. Cup, then the Cupwinners' Cup.**

Chelsea, as we know, have come through a very bitter and turbulent period. There was the Osgood-Hudson affair, there was the going of Dave Sexton; followed so devastatingly quickly by his return to Stamford Bridge with a triumphant QPR, 3-0 winners in a remarkable second-half.

### Approach

Was the club right to get rid of Hudson and Osgood? Was it right to get rid of Sexton? To approach Frank Blunstone to be the new manager? To appoint, having failed, Ron Stuart and Eddie McCreadie as the new tandem? These are questions which perhaps — with the exception of the last — can never be definitely answered.

You pay your money and you take your choice; just as you do on that or whether Osgood should or should not return to Stamford Bridge. I was sorry to see him go, as he himself was unquestionably sorry to go, but later on it seemed to me a mistake to bring him back. This view was certainly not shared by some of the Chelsea team, one of whom remarked to me with a wry smile, before a home game, that *he* would love to have Osgood back, to knock in the goals.

Opportunism, indeed, is what went out of the window when Osgood himself departed. He is classically the kind of player which Italians call "capable of inventing the game".

To answer the question, should he have been sold, one has to go some way back, before the moment of crisis and confrontation arrived. It may be said, in parenthesis, that Sexton himself was reluctant to sell him, where he did not so much mind selling Hudson, because he felt that there were enough midfield men, but not enough strikers.

### Exchange

When I asked Sexton why he had sold both these players without acquiring good men in exchange, he replied that while he didn't think he needed them in Hudson's case, he tried and failed in Osgood's. The man who would have come to Chelsea was Roger Davies, the big Derby County centre-forward, a player I have long admired. All was set; equivalent fees had been arranged, Davies was agreeable; but at the last moment, Osgood wasn't willing.

He must, in retrospect, be sorry about that; and sorry, too, perhaps that he didn't join Hudson at Stoke. Southampton have proved an unhappy choice, and he has been back and back to Stamford Bridge like a revenant. Brian Mears, the young chairman, still warmly disposed towards Sexton, has said that at times he can be very stubborn. Sexton says that what he wanted from Osgood was an apology (one, evidently without strings) which never came.

Osgood himself emerges from it all as a confused and self-defeating young man; a player of colossal gifts who would surely have played his hand quite differently, had he the chance to play it again.

**In fairness to him, however, let us return to what I touched on before; the general state of affairs at Chelsea. As Charlie Cooke wisely points out, there was widespread frustration, shared alike by the manager, the directors, the players. After the euphoria of the early 70s, tactics had stood still; the team had not evolved.**

When the balloon went up, there was no doubt that Hudson and Osgood, dropped for a game away to Sheffield United, which was won, were wrong. They refused to train; and Sexton was particularly distressed because there was an imminent Cup-tie against Queens Park Rangers. "I was quite happy to sell Alan. Ossie was a different kettle of fish, because he didn't want to go. Basically, he's Chelsea-minded."

### Tactical

If there are charges against Sexton, they are partly tactical, partly psychological; in the sense that he might, with astute action, have prevented things degenerating to the point of no return. But it would have taken immense diplomacy and acumen. Neither player, after all, was living the life of a modern ascetic.

It is good to hear Sexton so well spoken of today at Stamford Bridge, and to hear him speak so well of Ron Stuart and Eddie McCreadie, his successors. Brian Mears says that it was only as the whole affair developed that he realised that managers, as well as players, need motivating.

Sexton has certainly been a new and happier man since he joined QPR. Stuart, himself a man of generosity and largeness, pays great tribute to him as a coach; how he was forever thinking

Micky Droy of Chelsea climbs above the Birmingham defence during an FA Cup tie at Stamford Bridge. Chelsea lost.

of something new and unexpected, in training.

McCreadie says that one of his own greatest advantages as the new coach, at the early age of 34, is that he was able to learn first from Tommy Docherty, then from Dave Sexton.

Chelsea, I think, now realise that the approach to Frank Blunstone was a mistake. I myself have known, liked and admired Frank ever since he was the outside-left of the first England Under-23 team ever in Bologna, 21 years ago; but to subject him to the terrible pressures of managing a great London club would have been unfair.

## Coach

He did well at Brentford; that he is doing very well as the Manchester United juniors' coach is evidenced by the fact that his salary there was bounced up to an enviable five figures, when Chelsea came looking for him.

"Rod's as steady as a rock," Sexton observes, of the 54-year-old Stuart. "A good bloke to have next to you, Ron." Nobody agrees more wholeheartedly than the ambitious McCreadie, who says that if, against all expectations, the managerial job had been offered to him, he would have "gone down on his hands and knees" to beg Stuart to join him.

**McCreadie is an interesting figure. Charlie Cooke, his compatriot and former team mate, speaks highly of him. McCreadie himself has a relentless urge to succeed, and tells one frequently, between frequent puffs of the cigarettes he does not inhale, that he knows he is going to do so.**

## Question

To have played with so many of the present players, he says, is no disadvantage; it enables him to know them thoroughly in terms of their personae off the field as well as on it; nor is there any question of his lacking authority. There's a point at which the players know where to stop.

Though this season's team has had dreadful lacunae, the most interesting feature of Chelsea is the number of good youngsters who are coming along. Among them is Tommy Langley, a 16-year-old centre-forward who scored two of the goals whereby England defeated West Germany in the Final of the Las Palmas tournament last January. Sad that the team itself could not be sufficiently well bedded down to provide a comfortable context for such players.

As for the two and a half million pound grandstand, I agree with Brian Mears that it was emphatically something to be done. There have been two great misfortunes; one that its completion should be so long delayed, thus not only denying the club revenue from it, but also ruling out any revenue at all from the East side; secondly, that its building should coincide with such a bad patch on the field.

But Chelsea, a club founded by the Mears family, have ridden many storms in the past. They are, as I have said: practised survivors.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# CONFUSION CLOUDS OLYMPIC'S FUTURE

**AN air of confusion and doubt hangs over the 1976 Summer Olympic Games scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada with just about 18 months left before opening day.**

The doubt has been caused by the perennially troublesome labour situation in the Province of Quebec which has delayed and is still delaying construction of the Olympic Stadium and the Velodrome where the cycling events will be held. The Velodrome which was scheduled for completion in time for last summers world cycling championships is still just a steel skeleton.

Consternation was aroused early in January as a strike of iron workers dragged into its sixth week with construction on the main stadium already behind schedule when the strike started. Officials started considering alternatives such as revamping the Autostade the stadium built for Expo 67, but Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau was adament in saying: "The Games will have to be held in the installations proposed and chosen for the Games or there will be no Games."

Shortly after this Jean Cournoyer, Labour Minister of the Province of Quebec, forced settlement of the iron workers dispute and everyone breathed a little easier. However, once settled work could not begin immediately for the site was covered in snow and the machines had been sitting idle in the sometimes sub zero cold.

## Boycott

Thus one week after the strike was over work had still not begun with the iron workers union calling on its members to boycott the Olympic site and take jobs elsewhere unless they were paid for every days wages lost during the snow clearing. In the meantime it was discovered that two strikes and not one were in progress with about 20 pile drivers still out.

The Games are also in trouble financially with construction costs alone having risen from $250 million to $580 million in two years. Originally Mayor Drapeau assured the Canadian government that the Olympics could be held with no cost to the Canadian taxpayer. The Canadian public were naturally skeptical for after all they had been struck with an enormous bill for the cost of Expo '67 which was also held in Montreal.

Having listened to Drapeau's assurances the Canadian government in their turn assured the Montreal Mayor that they would in no way underwrite the cost of the Olympics, that he had their support but in effect he was on his own. Only through normal government programmes would any help be forthcoming and this would be confined to a housing programme which would first serve as the Olympic Village.

Now in a time of crises the Canadian government is still sticking to its guns and the government of Quebec, where Montreal is located, is now assisting with the financial burden. But as I write this towards the end of January dark clouds and an air of doubt still hang over Montreal.

**COLIN JOSE from North America**

Luckily the soccer programme is the one least likely to be affected by all this for three of the centres for soccer are located outside of Montreal in already established facilities. Not only that but the Autostade in Montreal was the home of the Montreal Olympique of the North American Soccer League in the two years in which that team operated and with suitable crowd control could very easily take the place of the Olympic Stadium as a soccer venue.

But it is not only the officials who are having trouble but Canada's athletes are also running into a familiar problem with finances in a country where amateur athletes (with the exception of some of those in skiing and skating) are second class citizens.

Foremost among those in trouble are the soccer players for whom the Canadian Soccer Association set up a "team in being" in Toronto last September. During a recent panel discussion on the C.B.C. Radio programme "This country in the Morning" John McMahon the General Manager of the Canadian team had this to say about the situation which saw ten players from British Columbia move to Toronto with their families in order that the players be able to train together on a regular basis, only to find at the beginning of January that eight of them were unemployed with very little chance of finding work in the current recession.

"The team was located in Toronto on the 23rd of September, we trained in Toronto for ten days and then went on a three week trip to Europe. Prior to leaving we had lined up seven boys with jobs and when we came back three of them got started. Then we got a fourth one hired, since then the three who got hired have been laid off." McMahon blamed this on the recession but also pointed out that as the programme for the soccer team for 1975 calls for players to have 30 weeks off work it is very difficult to get people to hire them.

## Good jobs

McMahon continued: "We have four players who are married three with families, who have moved from good jobs in Vancouver, they are getting no support whatsoever and I don't know how they are living."

All of this was no doubt one of the factors in the teams dismal performance in Cuba over the New Year when Canada lost to the Cuban "B" team 1-0 and to the full Cuban national team 4-0. These results coming on the heels of encouraging performances against much stronger opposition in Europe take a lot of explaining.

## Regular

Needless to say coach Eckhard Krautzun is still experimenting although still using the line up that saw regular service in Europe as a base. Canadian youth internationals Bruce Miller and Mike McLenaghen gained full international caps against Cuba as did two newcomers from Newfoundland Joe Turpin and Tom Riley.

The North American Soccer League has added another franchise to the growing list of clubs in the league for 1975. The new team will be located in the city of Hartford, Connecticut which for many years on and off has had teams in the American Soccer League. The Hartford entry makes the leagues membership up to 19 the highest it has ever been.

## News from France

## by Andre Duclos

# Bereta affair is over, but repercussions are still felt

**WELL, the Bereta Affair is over, as you know; the French international captain has been allowed to move to Marseille from Saint Etienne, both clubs have been fined; and Saint Etienne deprived themselves of one of their star players in the middle of their European Cup run. To a certain extent justice has been seen to be done, and for that we must mostly thank the players' union, but the whole affair leaves a bad and bitter taste, especially in the mouths of the Saint Etienne fans. It can scarcely be said that their club has kept faith with them.**

Still, it has to be said in fairness to Saint Etienne that they do keep the young talent bubbling along, and in Dominique Barthenay, who celebrated his 20th birthday in February, they have a footballer who seems sure to win full international honours; and very soon, into the bargain.

Bathenay made his debut in October 1973 as an 18-year-old, and both his skill and his calm temperament were at once in evidence. He is an Under 23 international who has already been admired by Stephan Kovacs, and his elevation to the purple — or the tricolour shirt — will surely not be long postponed. He is a left-back with precocious poise.

### Old club

Whatever the ins and outs of the Bereta affair — and you will remember that Bereta felt Herbin was glad to see him go — it can scarcely be gainsaid that Herbin has made a fine job of managing his old club.

He has had some interesting things to say this season; let me adduce a few of them. "When I was a player, I got into the habit, after playing in a match, of going off very quickly on my own to analyse what had happened. I have kept it as a manager. I think a professional man should avoid certain contacts with the outside world, otherwise he runs the risk of being disturbed and not seeing problems as they are."

Contrary to some, he believes that the French are "as capable as anybody else" in sport, but that they lack application and discipline. He is a strong supporter of the footballer as an athlete, attributing much of his own success as a player to it. He was not, he says, a born athlete, but he saw that he became one, practising several other different sports. "One must learn to suffer, to master oneself." As for a team's morale, "it is as fragile as football itself. That is why one must try to maintain a reciprocal confidence between the officials and all the players throughout the season, despite the mistakes and mishaps."

Angers have a new manager; none other than the old Yugoslavia, Partizan and Ajax centre-half, Vosovic. The manner of his appointment was not entirely derene or diplomatic, and came as a severe shock to Pancho Gonzales, the previous manager and ex Nice pivot. On holiday in Nice, he was told that Vasovic would be put beside him as physical trainer. When he returned he found that Vasoevic was in fact to be the manager. If he liked, he could stay on as manager of the youth team. Ah, football clubs; the same throughout the world!

**Reverting to Saint Etienne, it has been a good season, too, for the Revilli brothers, Herve', who briefly left the club for Nice, and Patrick. With the exception of the big Yugoslav goalkeeper, Curkovic, another to have acquitted himself well this season, Revelli is now the oldest member of the team; his whole career has been spent at Saint Etienne with the exception of those two years with Nice. The season did not, however, begin happily for him, as he was striving to recover from an injured knee and damaged ligaments. Characteristically, he fought his way back.**

### Degree

His style, as he admits, has changed with the years. In his earlier days he was essentially a centre-forward, the man who puts the ball in the net. Now, he says, he gets just as much pleasure out of setting up a goal as making one. The spirit of selflessness, he says, is characteristic of the whole team, and is in great degree attributable to Robby Herbin.

His spell at Nice, says Revelli, showed him the difference between Saint Etienne and other clubs. In terms of individual talent they were not as good as some teams, "but we were so superior on the collective level. It's thanks to my exile in Nice that I can appreciate the fact."

Meanwhile another Saint Etienne centre-forward, the Malian Salif Keita, now with Valencia in Spain, has been talking about the difference between French and Spanish football. "The Spanish Championship is tougher," he says, "there are several great teams."

Of his former club Marseille, whom he joined after he had fallen out with the Saint Etienne President, Roger Rocher, he says, "I think that in Marseille they have everything but football." This, in response to a question about the Paulo César affair — yes, we still have a multiplicity of these affairs here Paulo César was heavily fined by Marseille for his long absence.

### Dubious

As time goes by, the deal which brought first him then Jairzinho to France looks more and more dubious. Let it be said that there were those in France who greatly doubted it from the first.

Given that Salif Keita trod the same path as Bereta (not to mention Bosquier and Camus!) from Saint Etienne to Marseille, it is interesting and significant that he should say his advice to Bereta would have been: stay at Saint Etienne. "I don't want to make any comment on the Bereta Affair itself, I just want to say that from a footballing point of view, Bereta will have difficulties expressing himself in Marseille."

The 5000 franc fine on Paulo César inevitably created a tense situation; even if the fine included the cost of a round trip to Rio and his huge telephone bills . . . .

# Brazil slump, struggle

**TO be world champion is not necessarily any kind of surety that you will stay on top for ever and the sad way in which events have caught up with the Brazilian team which swamped Italy 4-1 in Mexico City in 1970 prove that well enough.**

Felix and Carlos Alberto were both dropped by Mario Zagalo almost a year ago when they turned up for training lacking in both fitness and form; Brito had by then already lost his club place with Santos; Wilson Piazza has been hounded mercilessly by the Press; Gerson has just retired; and Tostao went that way two years ago—forced out by the detached retina which almost cost him his place in Mexico.

## Prestige

Clodoaldo, one of the cornerstones in the attempt to retain the World Cup was injured in a warm-up match and Pele, of course, had already announced his international retirement long before.

Yet though the Black Pearl may have quit playing altogether now, he can't keep away from soccer or Santos. He's been put forward as a candidate for the Santos presidency and, as his sponsor, a former MP named Esmeraldo Tarquinio, points out, he has two unbeatable attributes.

The first is the mere prestige of his name.

But the second, and more important to a club in financial trouble, is the power and organisation of the vast Pele business empire. With that kind of support they could soon be back on the way towards the highest prizes in club soccer.

And while on the subject of presidents, Joao Havelange's prestige took a nasty knock recently when the FIFA leader was forced into resigning as head of the all-powerful Brazilian sports confederation, the CBD.

## Ousted

The 58-year-old multi-millionaire who ousted Sir Stanley Rous last summer, had thought that he would be able to continue to rule the roost at home while jetting about the world for FIFA.

But Brazil's World Cup failure (*only* fourth!), followed by a massive slump in attendances combined with disciplinary and doping problems, provoked his downfall.

Havelange had earlier vetoed the promotion of his erstwhile deputy, Silvio Pacheco, to succeed him when his term of office was due to end this spring, but Havelange's all-too-frequent absences finally led to his being called before Senhor Nei Braga, the Brazilian Minister for Education and Sport.

"You can't do both jobs," Havelange was told. "And Brazilian soccer is badly in need of a full-time president."

Havelange thus continues to lead FIFA, while Heleno Nunes has taken over at the CBD—with his first task being the appointment of Oswaldo Brandao as national team manager to succeed Zagalo, who is fast discovering the truth of the adage that a prophet is not without honour save in his own country.

## Manager

The 41-year-old was caned of course for the World Cup campaign, and switched from defensive to attacking soccer when he took over as manager of Botafogo. His change in policy seems to have brought little more than a string of defeats and so Zagalo, who won a World Cup winner's medal in 1958 and 1962, is ready to take a job in Europe.

"It wouldn't be hard for me to leave Botafogo," he said, "even though I'm still under contract. I've had quite a few offers from abroad, and I'm having to think carefully about them."

**Any preferences? "Well, my greatest dream has always been to work in Spain."**

## Confidence

Nevertheless he still has the greatest confidence in the future for Brazil. "We have all that is needed to go on shining in world football. You don't need to take my word for it, either. Just look at the facts: Three World Cups and a fourth place last summer. Surely that speaks for itself?"

One man we will not be seeing anywhere again, however, is Everaldo Marques da Silva, Brazil's left back in 1970. He was killed recently along with his wife when their car struck a lorry on the way back from a match near his home in Porto Alegre.

Everaldo was 29 and had won 20 caps, but he had been in the shadows ever since that 1970 triumph and in 1972 was suspended for a year for hitting a referee. That put paid to his chances of regaining his place in time for the last World Cup Finals, even before the emergence of Francisco Marinho, the blond 22-year-old who stole so much of the limelight in West Germany and has now been elected Brazil's Footballer of the Year.

There have, in fact, been a number of well-known players involved in car crashes this season: Adam Musial, the 25-year-old Wisla Cracow international, Dieter Müller of 1st FC Köln, and Anderlecht's Francois van der Elst have all been jinxed — though without anything like such tragic consequences. Had Everaldo still been around, he might have wondered at the differing standards

**Keir Radnedge enquiry into the of the champion last t**

of justice prevailing in Brazil when it comes to disciplinary matters.

**Another 1970 "veteran", Roberto Rivelino, 29 on New Year's Day, for instance, was suspended for a mere five matches for attacking a linesman during a championship match between his Corinthians of Sao Paulo and Botafogo.**

In the 50th minute Geraldo of Botafogo scored the game's first goal and though referee Silvio Acario allowed it, Corinthians protested vehemently that Geraldo had been offside. As the debate grew more heated Rivelino went for the linesman concerned and Acario sent him off.

The crowd reacted with a hail of bottles, stones and tin cans and after ten minutes' pandemonium, Acario declared the match abandoned. Rivelino came up for suspension, asked for a personal hearing, and was "let off" with a five-match ban.

Yet, even after the Everaldo case, three other players had been suspended inside the past 18 months for attacking linesmen in Brazil. Each had been suspended for a year . . .

# Cagliari but Riva stays

**e conducts an demise of some n teams of the en years**

The last member of the 1970 Brazilian team is, of course, now playing in Europe—Jairzinho, officially aged 30 on Christmas Day, but looking a good deal older than that when I met him in West Germany last summer.

Marseille paid £113,000 for him, but after making a quiet debut against Monaco on October 18 he was injured after only a handful of games. Claudio Coutinho, Zagalo's right hand man in West Germany, and now Marseille's trainer, is confident that Jairzinho will prove a bargain, but time is hardly on his side.

"No one here has seen Jairzinho at his best because he hadn't properly recovered from injury when he arrived," said Coutinho. "When it's cleared up he will need special training to get back to form. He will have to be nursed; ten minutes in one match; half an hour in another; one half; then, hopefully, maybe a full match. Only then will you see the real Jairzinho." I still think that Jairzinho's old club, Botafogo, had the best of the bargain.

But at least Jairzinho had played a few times for Marseille before the old year ran out, which was more than Cagliari could say for Luigi Riva—another survivor of that 1970 World Cup Final, though of course he was on the other side.

What has made Riva stand out has been the way in which, in a country where all the leading players at one time or another pass through the portals of Juventus, or Milan or Internazionale, he has preferred to stay in Sardinia.

Without Riva, Cagliari would be nothing. His goals have put the club where they are and took them incredibly to the championship in 1970. Yet last summer Riva had to fight an incredible battle for the right *to stay with Cagliari.*

He was 30 on November 7 and the club clearly felt that with their star showing increasing signs of wear and tear, they would be wise to sell for a big return in cash and players before his market value fell even further. Juventus had come in the previous summer with a £1 million part exchange offer which Cagliari had turned down. This summer however, president Andrea Arrica decided to do business. Milan and Inter came in with rival bids, and it appeared that the only people who were unhappy about it all were the Sardinian fans.

And after all, hadn't Arrica once said: "If we sold Riva the fans would string us all up from the nearest tree."

But he thought he would be able to justify the deal until, that is, the player himself threw a spanner in the works.

**Even coach Beppe Chiapella, the former Fiorentina wing-half, had said: "I think it is best if Riva goes. He can make some quick money while he still has the chance and we can rebuild our team for the future." Riva however, took another view.**

"I have no wish to leave Sardinia," he said angrily. "If they don't want me to play for Cagliari then I won't play for anyone."

## Contract

All the major suitors were astounded and so was Arrica. His answer was to say to Riva: "We are not very well off here and we didn't have a good season (Cagliari finished tenth). We won't be able to offer terms like those in your last contract."

Riva's previous four-year contract, which had just expired, was reportedly providing a £33,000 signing-on fee plus a guaranteed annual £46,000. Now Arrica was offering a £16,000 signing-on fee plus a guaranteed £25,000. Riva thought it a mere attempt at blackmail to force him out. And so, in disgust, he walked out on the pre-season *retiro*, taking with him three other players unhappy about their contract offers — Gori, Nene and Poletti.

The story could not end there. After several weeks Riva met Arrica to try to find a solution and eventually, while Riva trained with local amateur sides, they hit on a midway compromise set of figures. Riva came back into the fold and was promptly struck down by a series of knee and thigh injuries.

Without him Cagliari made a wretched start to the season and Chiapella was dismissed. Luigi Radice, the former Milan international wing-half who had enjoyed a short-lived but promising spell in charge at Fiorentina, took over, and it was against Fiorentina, on Sunday, January 5, that Riva finally played his first match of the season.

This was a needle match for Radice, particularly since Fiorentina, under his one-time Milan boss, Nereo Rocco, were fourth in the table, and the game couldn't have started better for either Radice or Riva.

With only four minutes gone Cagliari were awarded a penalty which Riva struck home with what was his first touch of the ball!

Claudio Merlo equalised, also from the penalty spot, after 14 minutes, but "Bobo" Gori scored almost immediately from the restart and Cagliari hung on to win. The defence deserved the credit, but it was Riva who got all the glory!

Meanwhile, Roberto Boninsegna, who scored Italy's goal in the 1970 World Cup Final, had been undergoing a terrible goal famine. Boninsegna scored four — against Cagliari of all people — in Inter's second game of the season, but didn't find the back of the net again in 1974 in the league.

## Penalty

He did score Italy's consolation goal in the 3-1 defeat by Holland in Rotterdam, but his confidence disintegrated altogether after he missed a penalty in a league game soon after.

At least Gianni Rivera, the 31-year-old "Golden Boy" of Calcio who played the last six minutes against Brazil in controversial circumstances, has shared a similar problem.

He's won 59 caps, and topped a century of goals in more than 420 league games, yet when he hit the back of the net against Bologna it was his first league goal for ten months! He'd last hit the target in a 2-0 win over Roma last February and the lack of success had clearly worried him too. Like Boninsegna he missed a penalty the week before the Bologna game, which Milan went on to win comfortably enough, 3-0.

## ERIC THORNTON'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

# IPSWICH TOWN DIRECTORS SHOW THE RIGHT WAY

**IPSWICH TOWN'S exciting chase after the game's major prizes is once more spotlighting the intriguing and important question no one has ever shown any real willingness or ability to answer since the days of my youth.**

It's just this — are club directors the people who should be praised when all is fine, or blamed when everything goes berserk, and the fans brightest hopes are slowly vanishing down the drain with the bank manager on the warpath?

Or should the laurels and all the rest continue being handed around to managers and players who always take their generous cuts in times of success, but usually move away when luck vanishes and the future begins looking grim?

The East Anglians have set the stage for such discussion with a remarkable pattern of triumphs which have not only hit the betting boys for sixes on several occasions, but have also confounded the roof-top forecasters.

### Population

By all the laws of soccer survival this particular club shouldn't really be in the hunt when one considers the power outfits of London, Manchester, Birmingham, Merseyside, Yorkshire and the north-east.

After all, the Suffolk market town has a population of only around 100,000 to draw from compared to the millions of folk living in the conurbations of the other centres.

**And, even more to the point, until recent years crowds at the Portman Road ground were hardly anything to write home about. But the directors had faith. They believed in the possibilities while glancing up enviously at the top echelons. Now, the average gates have risen from a meagre 12,000 to 30,000 and more.**

Admittedly, Liverpool, Arsenal, Spurs, Manchester City, Sunderland, Chelsea, Leeds United, Everton, Manchester United and a few others have also been popping in and out of the limelight while collecting a share of the awards.

But few of these would today relish a battle with Ipswich, the so-called small-town club. Yet I think it would be completely wrong to suggest that everything has been achieved only because of the manager and his team.

It's the long-term planning of the directors which has been especially good. They've generally picked the right man for the senior jobs. If they hadn't, the club might now have been wallowing in the Fourth Division. Or the Third, where it was until 1957.

Consider what could have happened. Take the sorry case of Bradford City. Former F.A. Cup winners and illustrious members of the First Division, whose ground is encircled by nearly half a million people, they are struggling in the basement.

There is also the further dismal instance of Huddersfield Town. Once tagged the "Team of the century" and boasting a complete line-up of internationals, with one of the finest grounds in Britain, they are finding it tough in The Third.

Sharing their plight are such clubs as Charlton Athletic, Blackburn Rovers, Preston North End — all previous Wembley winners — and Crystal Palace and Grimsby Town, who once graced the top circle.

If those clubs had had better boards years ago they probably wouldn't be in their present unfortunate position. There cannot be any guarantee about that, of course, but anyone requiring further proof of good directorship need only look at Burnley.

So the immediate toast must be — To The Directors of Ipswich and Burnley.

# Gregg h

**HARRY GREGG, that famous Irish goalkeeper who lit up Wembley one wintry day, has decided to have another go in managership, and the new starting point will be in the basement once again.**

**Taking charge of the hard-up Crewe Alexandra club may not be everybody's idea of a good take-off to better things, yet, at least, there'll be no travel problems in the centre of such a rail network.**

**The move also means that this studious character is almost back among the many good friends he made during those great years in front of the cheering thousands of the northern counties.**

**But that's nearly two decades away. Since then, if you please, the boy from County Derry has spent considerable time successfully shaping teams for first Shrewsbury Town and then Swansea City.**

**I've no doubt that while settling down in the tiny office underneath the main stand at the Gresty Road ground, he will be thinking back to that testing League baptism with a Doncaster outfit, and also recalling the thrill of the first international against Wales.**

**Half a dozen caps later this all-round athlete from the "pocket" market town of Magherafelt, was the toast of everyone countryman by virtue of a tremendous display which ended in England's unexpected defeat at their own headquarters.**

**The sixfooter didn't know then, of course, that a top performance had shaped his destiny for the immediate years ahead. Yet that was so because Matt Busby, searching for extra defensive strength, had liked**

Alan Stevenson of Burnley punches clear from his crowded goalmouth in a match against Queen's Park Rangers.

# has another go

what he'd seen from a seat high up in Wembley's V.I.P. stand.

Manchester United's chief of that era was particularly impressed with a second-half showing, which I'll never forget, including a fantastic string of full-length saves out of this world.

That was December, 1957. And the fee of £23,500, eagerly grabbed by the Belle Vue organisation, not only broke all previous records for goalkeepers but guaranteed Harry a spot in a United team which by 1958 was looking a good bet for the European Cup until most of its gifted players tragically lost their lives in a plane crash in the snows of Munich.

One of the few survivors of that doomed return trip from Belgrade, he played on, then began exerting a strong influence on the youngsters around him at Old Trafford. Just as he seems to have done all down the years.

For instance, he moulded young Jim Holton into such a fine centre-half that the boy is Scotland's first choice today. And he converted defender Alf Wood into a finisher who hit 41 goals in his first campaign as an attacker.

No one denies the success of that particular flair at The Gay Meadow. But he also built a young pool at The Vetch Field where, unfortunately, there is no spare cash even though the club has sold its ground to the local council.

His Swansea list was especially interesting. Because it included that of a 14-year-old by the name of Jeremy Charles. Yes, the son of Mel, and fast developing into the thoroughbred structure of Uncle John.

Always a great believer in youth, Harry says the Welsh valleys are still full of talent, but those he takes under the wing for coaching must always abide by the rules of the game, and not contest decisions on the field.

Well, now he is with another of the unfashionables, and I'm afraid it's going to be an uphill trail all the way — though history provides the comforting reflection that Harry Catterick halted there before reaching the summit.

He's Crewe's twelfth post-war boss, and looking at the task ahead, Harry Gregg gives this very honest comment: "I shall take as much pride managing Crewe as I would if I were managing Manchester United or any other club."

# World Soccer's roving reporter... PAUL RADFORD from Lima, Peru

# Britain — one vote, one team

**BRITAIN should be represented in FIFA by one single nation and not by four separate countries (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) as at present, the president of the South American Football Confederation, Dr. Teofilo Salinas, told "World Soccer" in an exclusive interview.**

Stressing that he was expressing a personal viewpoint, the Peruvian official added: "It would be better for Britain, as well as for the rest of the world. You would have a much stronger national team and you would be able to form a proper national championship."

Dr. Salinas said South American moves to change Britain's status in FIFA had been defeated by "political problems". "When these problems pass we will revive the issue and Britain will become a single nation in FIFA," he claimed.

Asked when this would happen, the soft-spoken, genial Peruvian lawyer smiled and said "pronto!"

Nevertheless, Dr. Salinas said he did not believe that power in FIFA was shifting from Europe to South America, as some people suggested following the election of Dr Joao Havelange of Brazil to the FIFA presidency in place of Sir Stanley Rous.

"In South America we hope Dr. Havelange's election as president of FIFA will give us more say in world football," he commented. "But Dr. Havelange is an international figure—he doesn't support either side. He's a very correct man and always seeks the right solution."

## More nations

One test of whether or not the power has shifted is the organisation of the 1978 World Cup in Argentina. Europe wants 16 nations in the finals as before, while South America is looking for an increase to 20 countries.

Answering criticisms that Argentina was not ready to host the tournament Dr. Salinas said preparations were well under way and there was no reason to doubt that Argentina would be ready in time.

Dr. Salinas also discounted the popular belief that the poor showing of South American teams in last year's World Cup finals in West Germany indicated that soccer in the "New World" was in decline.

**"We didn't see the real South American football in Germany," he said. "Many South American selectors had to improvise because their best players were abroad. The teams were formed at the last minute and the players didn't understand each other—they weren't homogenous sides."**

Brazil, according to Dr. Salinas, were in a transition stage between their great team of the 1970 World Cup in Mexico and their future team for 1978. "I believe Brazil will have a great side in Argentina. There are still good young players in Brazil," he said.

"In 1978 South America will come to the fore again—I'm sure of it."

The Peruvian official said one of the main problems for South American countries was that they had little opportunity to get national squads together at competitive level. But he hoped the revival this year of the "Copa America" —the South American equivalent of the European Championship — would help solve this problem.

## EXCLUSIVE

The Copa America was dropped after 1967 because it was making huge financial losses. The competition had become unwieldy with all nations playing for the title in one host country.

Dr. Salinas said the new system—with nations playing off in groups to reach the finals—should prove more successful. "The Copa America will be played every two years," he said. "We have proposed that the champions should play the winner of the European Championship for a trophy to be called the "Sir Stanley Rous Cup", but we're still waiting for a reply from Europe."

In Dr. Salinas' opinion soccer in South America is still behind that of Europe in many ways. He said organisation was easier in Europe because more money was available and, because travel distances were much smaller, more international contact was possible.

**But he added that progress was being made in South America and he mentioned Peru, Chile and Uruguay as countries where better stadia are being built.**

From a playing point of view Dr. Salinas pointed to Europe's superiority in discipline and physical preparation, but again he felt South America was progressing and that, since the World Cup, many teams were beginning to play "modern football".

Talking of the future of the game, Dr. Salinas said urgent reforms were needed. "Professional football both in Europe and South America is in a bad financial state," he argued. "The astronomic transfer fees and players' wages are to blame.

"I believe this is a passing phase, but we must look for an acceptable level. Little by little these enormous fees must go down."

As an example, Dr. Salinas cited the case of his own country, Peru, where the best players (Cubillas, Sotil, Baylon, Munante etc) are tempted into leaving home by the fabulous wages offered in other countries.

The result is a vicious circle in which the standard of football in Peru goes down, crowds dwindle and clubs are forced to sell more stars to foreign teams to make ends meet.

"There is no solution to professional football's problems till we lower these high wages and transfer fees," Dr. Salinas warned.

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**THE Peruvian league championship is drawing to a close with the Lima club, Universitario de Deportes, strong favourites for the title.**

The top six teams in the league now enter the end-of-season "liguilla" in which all six play each other once, but as points gained in the main part of the championship are retained the only two clubs interested in the title are Universitario and the season's major surprise, unfashionable Union Huaral.

These two will almost certainly represent Peru in the Copa Libertadores, although last season's champions, Defensor Lima, still have a mathematical chance.

Universitario have now gone an incredible 33 games without defeat, a record they came close to losing in their last outing against Atletico Chalaco when they trailed 0-2 with 20 minutes to play.

But spurred on by captain, Hector Chumpitaz, who scored a magnificent goal, Universitario fought back to gain a 2-2 draw.

# RWD STAY UNBEATEN IN BELGIUM

## by CHRIS RHYS

**THE remarkable unbeaten run of Racing White Daring of the Brussels suburb of Molembeek has taken most of Europe completely by surprise with the exception of Ujpest Doza of Hungary, who have not played since December. Racing White Daring are the only unbeaten team in Europe, and in being undefeated for 28 consecutive games in the Belgian league, have broken the all time league record of 26 matches set many years back by Waregem.**

Since their last league defeat—3-2 away at C. S. Bruges on March 31, 1974—their record reads:

**Home:** Played 14, won 10, drawn 4, goals for 39, against 12.

**Away:** Played 14, won 7, drawn 7, goals for 34, against 15.

By mid February 1975 they were five points ahead of Anderlecht, with the 1974-75 seasons statistics being:

**Home:** Played 11, won 9, drawn 2, lost 0, goals for 33, against 8.

**Away:** Played 13, Won 6, drawn 7, lost 0, goals for 31, against 15. For a total of played 24, won 15, drawn 9, lost 0, goals for 64, goals against 23, points 39.

The idea of Racing White Daring Molembeek (R.W.D.M.) was formulated at the end of the 1972-73 season when Brussels had five clubs in the Belgian League — Anderlecht, Racing White, Crossing, Daring, and Union St. Gilloise. A meeting was held between the latter four clubs, for financial reasons, and in the hope of providing competition within the city to the all conquering Anderlecht.

Crossing and Union St Gilloise were relegated to join Daring in the 2nd Division at the end of 1972-73, leaving Racing White, who were third in Division 1, but who were beaten 2-1 on aggregate by the moderate C.U.F. of Portugal, in the E.U.F.A. Cup, as Anderlecht's only fellow city challengers.

### Negotiations

After three months of negotiations, Union St. Gilloise and Crossing decided to remain independent, but the presidents of Racing White, Mr. J. Gooris and Daring, Mr. J. B. L'Ecluse, agreed on an amalgamation to the present R.W.D.M.

For the start of the 1973-74 season, and for the opening of the new stand, R.W.D.M. played Real Madrid and were narrowly beaten 2-1. The ground is only two miles from that of Anderlecht and is named the Edmond Machtens Stadium; Mr. Machtens is a State Minister, and the Lord Mayor of Brussels is the President of the club and Mr. Gooris and Mr. L'Ecluse the Vice-presidents in the new set-up. Mr. L'Ecluse is the club sponsor, a local builder, architect and now in charge of operations of the new Brussels Metro. The ground holds 31,750 with 9,250 seats and plans are under way to increase seating accommodation for 1975-76.

R.W.D.M. finished third in the league in their first season, 1973-74, two points behind champions Anderlecht, and level with runners up Antwerp. In the E.U.F.A. Cup they beat Espanol of Spain 4-2 on aggregate, before losing to Vittoria Setubal in the second round on away goals, Setubal beating Leeds United in the third round.

Scottish fans had an early opportunity to see R.W.D.M. when Dundee lost 4-2 in the home leg of the first round of this year's E.U.F.A. after R.W.D.M. had won 1-0 at home. It took the experienced campaigners F.C. Twente Enschede to beat them 3-1 in the second round, R.W.D.M.'s only setback in any competition this year — they beat Winterslag 2-0 to retain an interest in the Belgian Cup, at the quarter final stages.

### Unhappy

The trainer of the remarkable side is ex-Anderlecht 'keeper, Felix Week, whose memories of England are distinctly unhappy. In 1956-67 in the European Cup, it was his misfortune to be the last line of Anderlecht's defence, which let in 10 goals at Old Trafford against Manchester United.

Though Anderlecht have dominated the Belgian national team over the last few years, R.W.D.M. have nine internationals on their books. The regular goalkeeper is Nico de Breg (30), a Dutchman signed from N.E.C. Nijmegen, and the deputy, Francis Cuypers (27). The full backs are Eric Dumon (20), of whom much is expected, and his partner on the other flank is the Belgian Footballer of the Year in 1973, Maurice Martens (27), who has 15 caps and currently one of the finest attacking full backs in the world.

The centre backs are Danish international, Kresten Bjerre (29), the club captain, who played against Scotland in the world cup preliminaries in 1972-73, but is now a naturalised Belgian, and Gerard Desanghere (27), four caps, who played against France in the European Nations Cup with Maurice Martens and Jack Teugels last October. Desanghere has been recently injured and his place filled most capably by Alexis Lafont (28).

The midfield trio are all internationals, Johan Boskamp, seven times capped Dutch international, used to play for Feyenoord, and played in the 1970 world club champions team against Estudiantes, signed this season and is still only 26. Orilion Pollenius (31), the experienced Belgian international with over 30 caps and a 1970 World Cup player was signed from St. Trond, and was Belgian Footballer of the Year in 1969.

The third international is Benny Neilson, a Dane, who is 23 and has played for Denmark in the current European Nations Cup, it is his first year at R.W.D.M. after three seasons with C.S. Bruges. Paul Schouppe (20) and the ex-Beerschot player, Chris Stroybant (28) complete the midfield places and all, should the occasions arise are capable of moving into the striking positions.

R.W.D.M. at present have the two leading scorers in Belgian football. Eddy Kogns (28) leads with 16 goals this season. He gained a couple of Dutch internationals caps with P.S.V. Eindhoven, then moved to St. Trond for five years before moving to Racing White for the 1972-73 season.

Second in the first division scoring lists with 15 goals is the current Belgian international, ex-Anderlecht and seven times capped centre forward Jack Teugels (28). The third member, with 12 goals so far this season, is Willy Wellens (20), signed this year from Lierse, who has gained under-23 caps for Belgian this year and who scored in both legs of the E.U.F.A. Cup v. Dundee.

In reserve, as well as the international midfield trio, are Weitse Veenstra, at 28 another ex-P.S.V. Eindhoven and Dutch international, whose three international appearances included one against England in November 1969, and who has been with the club for three seasons, including one with the old Racing White, whom he joined from F.C. Bruges. Josef Desmedt, at 19, the club's youngest player is also a striker and completes the first team squad of 17.

As many European clubs are, R.W.D.M. too, a multi complex sports centre and one world famous figure often seen training with the players, when time permits, is world cycling champion and five time Tour de France winner, Eddy Merckx! The final ironic twist to this rags to riches story is that the two clubs who opted to stay out of the amalgamation at the meeting in 1972-73, Union St. Gilloise and Crossing are now holding down the last two places in the Belgian second division! **C.R.**

# England kept out of soccer's Common Market

## by Keir Radnedge

**EXORBITANT transfer fees and the ban on foreign players here are keeping England out of soccer's Common Market (writes KEIR RADNEDGE).**

That is the view of one of the men involved in setting up an international player/manager transfer agency, and that is why the low-tax rewards to be earned by a Johan Cruyff in Spain are out for British players.

The agency, called Inter Football, is based in Amsterdam and the three principals are Cor Coster (Cruyff's father-in-law and business manager), Piet Keizer (formerly of Ajax) and Maarten de Vos (Holland's sports writer of the year).

And it was de Vos who revealed chapter and verse to me on the aims and ambitions of Inter Football and just why they are unlikely to be building many bridges across the English Channel.

**First he explained the agency's role:**

"We are a kind of bureau which you might compare with a show business impresario. We try to work with five groups: The KNVB (Dutch football federation); the clubs; the catches; the players; and publicity. All these things can be easily linked together, we think, and that is the job we are trying to do.

"What happens is that players sign with us and we can help them to publicity deals — for instance perhaps Johan Cruyff and Pepsi, or Wim van Hanegem and Adidas."

But it's not just a question of helping players to make money, there's the question of helping them to keep it.

"We talk with a lot of young players. A boy has a potential ten years at the most in which he can earn a lot of money. He has to save as much as he can and we can help him — we can help him handle the Press as well, and so on.

We have a lot of experts working with us — apart from our scouts, we have links with medical specialists, tax experts, bank experts and lawyers. Young players get a lot of money but they don't know what to do with it.

"Just as a lot of organisations in football are run mainly by amateurs and need our help, so do young players. There's one particular player in Belgium — he has a great future — but if someone put any contract in front of him he would sign it. And his father doesn't understand what can be involved either.

"So, he will sign a contract with us and we will help him to make the best deals."

**It may seem strange that Inter Football should start with players so young — for instance, de Vos told me that they are keen to sign up 17-year-old youth internationals even — but then, their know-how is such that it is clearly in the player's interest to get good advice early, just as it is also, of course, in Inter Football's interest — they take their 10 per cent over a longer period.**

In Britain, such early concentration on young players might almost be interpreted as poaching. But, in fact, de Vos and his associates have taken great pains to make it clear that they are above board — or, as de Vos himself puts it: "We aren't a lot of hooligans.

### Official

"Last week I visited the UEFA offices and had an interview with Hans Bangerter (general secretary), because we want this all to be very legal and official. We had a letter of introduction from Mr. Meuleman (KNVB president), and the meeting was arranged through Mr. Burgwal (KNVB secretary). So it is all official."

*(That was, maybe, presumptive. When I spoke to UEFA later they seemed a little cautious about committing themselves either way).*

"We are just getting organised," de Vos continued, "but we have the Dutch team under contract and a lot of players abroad, including Dick van Dijk (Murcia) and Velibor Vasovic (now a manager in France). "We have Paul van Himst working for us in Belgium, Beckenbauer in West Germany and Bert Theunissen in Berne — he is a former Dutch international who played with Eindhoven and Young Boys Berne.

"You see, a club might say to us: 'We need an outside-left but we cannot afford a really top-class player'. Then perhaps we can buy a player for them."

The Inter Football organisation is building bridges all over the place. They have scouts operating in Denmark, Norway and Sweden and Stefan Kovacs, the former Ajax coach now in France, has been of enormous help in introducing Coster, Keizer and de Vos to more influential people.

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also wanted to move after the World Cup, but was "persuaded" that he was better off in Poland. However, it seems that he may have had second thoughts about all that, judging by the stories that he intends to retire this summer.

At least in Deyna's case, the retirement might be out of choice—sadly, one cannot say the same thing about Hans-Jürgen Kreische, who has apparently now given up all hope of ever playing soccer seriously again.

Kreische, like Deyna, is still only 27 and, with Dynamo Dresden was the East German league's top scorer in 1971 (17 goals), 1972 (14 goals) and 1973 (26 goals).

But then he suffered a serious cartilage injury when fouled by Rumanian goalkeeper Nicolae Radacanu in a World Cup qualifying game 16 months ago and,

● *Continued from page 19*

though recovering his fitness, was a mere shadow of the player he had been and was dropped during the Finals.

Finally his knee injury flared again on the eve of Dresden's crucial UEFA Cup second leg against Hamburg. Kreische told his manager, Walter Fritzsch, that he saw little point in continuing a career which had turned into one long hospital trip.

Then, to add to the gloom, Dresden missed a twice-taken penalty and were knocked out 6-3 on aggregate.

Of all the ways to break a contract, this has to be the worst. At least all the others can go on playing but one man who was content with his club and his country can't even do that . . .

Johan Cruyff in action for Barcelona in a league match against Real Sociedad. Cruyff has scored only five goals in 19 matches this season and was sent off during the match against Malaga. He was suspended for one match.

"Meeting all these people helps us to get a better grip on the market," said de Vos. "We think it's important to meet as many people as possible."

**And, of course, the benefits are not all one way.**

"You know, before Coster handled Cruyff he didn't earn 10 per cent of what he earns now. And Keizer's first contract was a laugh. That's why he understands the value of helping young players. We helped Cruyff to a big contract with Philips and he will be coming to England soon in a publicity deal for a breakfast cereal.

## Settled

"But there are other things, too. For example, when Neeskens went to Barcelona he had a lot of trouble with his house, some real bad luck and, of course, it can influence the way he plays if he is not settled at home. So we helped get things right there — we try to do as much as we can to keep a player happy."

**And not only players — coaches/managers too.**

"There is a very strong coaches' union in Holland, linked to the workers' unions and they think that our idea is a very good one. They think that when a club needs a manager it's sensible that they can come to us. We are building up an index of coaches — because to find the right one for a particular club is clearly of vital importance."

Yet Inter Football is not merely concerned with individual players and coaches. There are clubs to consider, too, and the agency hopes to establish itself as a match organiser as well as all the rest.

"For instance, Ajax have given us a list of the dates for which they want matches and their conditions for playing and we just fill their programme for them. It saves them work.

"We are really trying to hit this hard. And we are also trying to get through to the United States — we think that there is a really big potential there for European soccer, and we will go across soon to look at the situation."

## Agencies

**England, however, is a different matter.**

"I don't think we could do a very good job," said de Vos — thought what he meant, in fact, was that the same need for intermediary agencies is not so gaping here.

"I know Dave Sexton very well and I would like to bring Queen's Park Rangers or his old club Chelsea across to Europe on tour. We could easily arrange matches for English clubs — if they would just let us know dates and conditions and the kind of teams they would want to meet.

"You see, we have contacts all over Europe, but not really in England. I think that football in England is very well organised and there would be less for us to do.

## Transfer

"It's not very likely that we could bring British players in Europe either. Transfer fees in Britain are so high, the players would hardly stand a chance of getting into Europe."

**What about Spain?**

"Yes, perhaps. But the Spanish clubs are only interested in attackers, goal-scorers and I don't know if English centre-forwards — like Chivers and so on — could fit in."

**You mean our strikers don't have enough skill?**

"Well, that's possible . . . anyway the prices are too high."

There is little chance of continental players being sold into England either because of the FA block on foreigners. But this is a ban which must go at some time, after some test case, and de Vos merely echoed my own views when he said: "I think your football needs some exotic influences — it could be very beneficial."

**Maybe organisations such as Inter Football will help to speed that day.**

## East European round-up

# CROWDS IN RUSSIA ON THE DECLINE

THE experiment in Russia to do away with drawn games is now long forgotten in Moscow and in the 1974 league campaign there was a slight improvement in goalscoring (25 goals up on 1973) though one third of all league matches were drawn and the dreaded 0-0 popped up 33 times.

Attendances at First Division games again topped six million but were 100,000 down overall on the previous year. The overall average was 26,000 per game with Cup and League double winners topping the list, pulling in 685,000 for their 15 home games.

The biggest disappointment was the attendance at Jerevan where Ararat took the championship in 1973 to Armenia for the first time. Ararat's overall gate dropped from 853,000 (15 home games) to only 290,000 in the 1974 season.

Ararat also have a new manager for 1975 with Nikita Simonian moving back to Moscow to work for the FA. His successor who takes over for the European Cup Winners Cup is Viktor Maslov who rebuilt Dynamo Kiev in 1971 before retiring officially. Soon after, Torpedo Moscow persuaded him back into action and he rebuilt their side for them too so that they finished fourth last season.

As suggested previously in this magazine, the Russian FA have decided to base their national team on the champion club Dynamo Kiev and their manager Valerij Lobanowski takes over from Konstantin Beskov in the dual role as national team boss.

### Striker

He will be assisted by his Kiev assistant Oleg Basilowitsch with Konstantin Beskov going back to the capital to take over the team preparing for the Olympic Games which will be based on Spartak Moscow.

Though transfers are generally difficult to arrange Dynamo Kiev appear to have unusual pull in high places. After engaging international striker Vladimir Onitschenko from Zarja's Kouznetzov brothers, Victor who nominally a right winger dropped back to play in midfield.

Capped as a midfield player Kouznetzov's new club already has three full international midfield players in Kolotov, Muntjan and Veremejev.

**As part of their preparations for international matches the national team will play host in Moscow to hand-picked teams from amongst the best sides in Eastern Europe in a competition for a new cup to be staged in July.**

In future though, the general hard line will be taken with regard to transfers amongst the top players to prevent under the counter payments, the two clubs promoted to Division I will in future be permitted to sign seven new players to help them settle in the top class.

Amongst the 20 clubs now in the Second Division are several well known clubs including Dynamo Minsk Neftci Baku, Kairat (Alma Ata), Torpedo Kutaissi and the Soviet Air Force team Kridla Sovetu Kujbysev.

Another new regulation affects the distribution of medals in the Soviet Union which, unlike most countries, gives medals to the top three clubs as against the more customary two. In future goal average will not count amongst the top three places and clubs in this group finishing level on points will settle the issue by playing off.

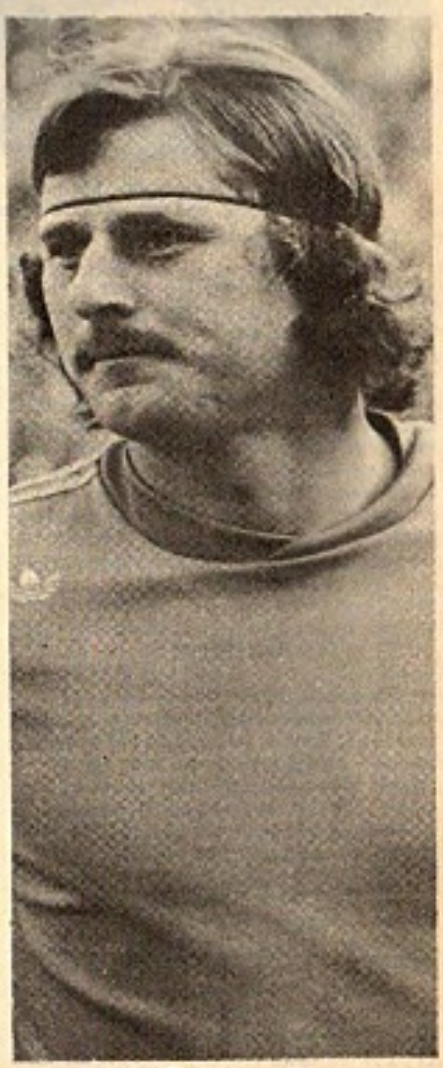
# Maszczyk wins the players' award...

**FOOTBALLER of the Year for 1974 is Zygmunt Maszczyk of champions Ruch Chorzow with 553 votes against Robert Gadocha's 550. Grzegorz Lato, top scorer in the World Cup was third.**

National team boss has two new assistants for the 1975 campaign Bernard Blaut a former midfield international who had two years playing in France with FC Metz and former international goalkeeper Hubert Kostka.

The draw for the FA Cup semi finals is Gornik Zabrze v ROW Rybnik Reserves and Stal Rzeszow v Pogon Stettin. ROW's A XI went out in the first round and Second Division Stal beat Stal Mielec in the quarter finals 2-0.

Pogon got through to the last four with a 3-1 win over LKS Lodz in which goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski scored the LKS goal from a penalty. ROW Reserves appear to have no chance against Szarmach, Gorgon and Co., but they have already beaten three Division I sides.



Jan Tomaszewski.

## International Post-Mortem by ERIC BATTY

# EARLY GOAL — POOR FINISH

**IN these days of ultra defensive football an early goal makes a vital difference and at the Luis Casanova stadium in Valencia, Joe Jordan headed Scotland into the lead after only 50 seconds. Having been beaten by Spain at home, this goal start gave the Scottish side all the encouragement they needed while Spain with an attacking team composed by manager Ladislav Kubala who clearly thought it was a day for attacking, were thrown completely out of gear.**

For more than an hour Scotland had much the better of things with David Harvey in their goal almost a spectator. At the other end, however, though Scotland dominated the play and both full backs Sandy Jardine and Danny McGrain were often seen at the Spanish end of the pitch, Jose Iribar was never really stretched after the first minute.

Much of the credit for preventing the Scots bringing Iribar into action must be given to the young Real Madrid debutant, Jose Camacho at left back who had a fine game.

Scotland's goal was the result of sloppy reaction in the Spanish defence though the players had barely warmed up. Charlie Cooke side footed a free kick to Kenny Dalglish whose cross was hammered fiercely against the Spanish crossbar from close in by Kenny Burns and Joe Jordan was the first to react, getting in a flying header to score from close range.

### Opportunity

Scotland had other chances — Dalglish completely missing his kick from a good opportunity and Tommy Hutchison hesitating fatally when well placed inside the Spanish box but generally all Scotland's pressure was wasted because of their relatively poor final passes that failed to match their drive and aggression in midfield.

The Spaniards were clearly thrown into disarray by that early goal and never really gained any composure. Villar, another debutant showed good skills in midfield where Claremunt back after suspension also proved to be both industrious and skilful but centre forward Garate had a bad game and was finally replaced by Megido.

Apart from Camacho, the only other player to stand out for Spain was Barcelona's Carlos Rexach. Nominally a left winger he often dropped back to show deft touches in midfield and made several penetrating runs down the left.

Fittingly, it was Rexach who finally set up Spain's equalising goal, deceiving two Scottish defenders before crossing from the left. Megido headed for goal from close in and Harvey reacted with a fine reflex save but managed only to push the ball up and out.

Megido tried to hit the rebound on the half-volley but missed his cue and the ball seemed to pass through Harvey's legs for Martin Buchan, covering on the goal-line to handle.

The referee signalled a penalty but to the Scots annoyance changed his mind on the advice of a linesman who said the ball had crossed the line. Claramunt who would probably have taken the penalty rarely misses so the Scottish protests were really academic.

### Demanded

With 67 minutes gone the Spaniards now appeared to settle for a draw, though initially they had expected to win and the 60,000 crowd still demanded it. Realistically however, the 'Kubala-boys' realised they had been let off the hook following that early goal and began to waste time to the disgust of the spectators.

The Scots desperately needed a win to put them back in with a chance to qualify from this group but failed to produce really penetrative passes into the Spanish penalty area. Towards the end Martin Buchan who played as a sweeper began to move forward.

Had he been given free rein to play **a la Beckenbauer** he might have managed to thread a ball through the compact Spanish defence which Hutchison and Cooke for all their skill failed to do.

The game itself was a disappointment though both sides were somewhat fortunate — Scotland to get the early break and Spain in the manner of their equalling goal.

**Spain (0) 1 (Megido)**
**Scotland (1) 1 (Jordan)**

**Spain:** Iribar; Sol, Benito, Costas, Camacho, Claramunt, Villar, Asensi, Rexach, Garate (Megido), Quini.

**Scotland:** Harvey; Jardine, McQueen, Buchan, McGrain, Bremner, Cooke, Hutchison, Dalglish, Jordan (Parlane), Burns (Wilson).

The start of Scotland's troubles in their vital European Championship clash against Spain. Megido heads for goal, Harvey saves but as the ball comes out Megido hits it back. The ball was then handled by Buchan, but after awarding a penalty the referee consulted a linesman and gave a goal, claiming the ball had already crossed the line.

WORLD SOCCER

# DIARY from Peking

The Chinese national squad pictured in Singapore.

# Potential for China to win Asian Games

**CHINA'S footballers may not be the world's greatest but they are certainly among the best mannered in a sport generally noted more for its competitive spirit than sportsmanship.**

Though lacking in international experience the Chinese are keen to learn and have the potential to produce a side among the best in Asia before long.

Like most other sports of Western origin, football was brought to China in the late 1800s but had little chance to flourish amid the Civil and Foreign wars of the first half of the 20th Century.

The Communist take-over of 1949 ushered in a new era of peace and stability and in 1952 Chairman Mao Tse-Tung gave his personal backing to a nationwide fitness drive with the slogan "promote physical culture and build up the people's health."

Without rivalling table tennis and badminton, football has become steadily more popular over the past two decades and especially in the last five years, during which time China has used sport as a diplomatic weapon to improve its image abroad.

## Standard

The Chinese have yet to come up against one of the world's top teams, but a series of matches against Asian and other Third World sides has given them an idea of the standard for which they have to aim.

Last September's Asian Games in Teheran was the first chance the Chinese had had in over a decade to take part in a major international football competition and though they came away without any medals, their combination of fitness and clean play won praise from opponents and spectators alike.

The Chinese side performed well against India, winning by seven goals to one but lost 1-0 to Iraq and 2-0 to their neighbours the North Koreans.

The national side followed their Teheran venture with a South-East Asian tour last November which brought them seven victories and one draw against national and local sides in Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines and Hong Kong.

**One major goal which as yet eludes China is membership of FIFA. China refuses to join the Federation unless Taiwan is expelled first.**

In practical terms this has not proved a serious handicap as FIFA has sometimes given member countries special permission to play against China but being treated as an outsider in this way inevitably rankles with the Peking authorities.

One striking feature of the Chinese footballing scene is the complete absence of the superstars of the capitalist world. Being a top sportsman in China is undoubtedly very prestigious, but there is nothing like the material reward and adulation that leading players elsewhere have come to expect.

There are no professional footballers in China. Talented youngsters are sent to part-time sports institutes and physical education colleges where they get as much training as they need — though ideology demands that they also put in time on the factory floor or the paddy field.

## Factory

Crewcut and drably dressed, the typical footballer will be a sports teacher — or possibly a soldier or factory worker — earning roughly £16 to £19 a month, living in a dormitory if he is single, or in a two-roomed apartment if he is married with children.

On the field of play he will stick strictly to the famous "Friendship first, competition second" slogan — except for odd moments of tension when even his almost superhuman restraint will wear thin.

Though individualism is strongly discouraged here, two men to watch on the current national squad are Chi Shang-Pin and Jung Chih-Hsing, both speedy attacking players with a thirst for goals.

Chinese spectators, like the players, are far too well-disciplined to indulge in the hooliganism that afflicts some footballing nations, though they can raise a rousing cheer for a skilful passing movement or a dramatic goalmouth melee.

## Powerful

Any Chinese who threw a toilet-roll, much less a bottle or stone on to the pitch, would instantly be criticised by the surrounding crowd and might even have an interview with the powerful public security authorities.

The main problem facing Chinese football today is that after years of isolation, China has lost touch with the mainstream of a sport which has been continuously developing and experimenting.

**The answer is clearly up-to-date coaching methods, plenty of match play experience at international level and a good crop of younger players. If the official backing is there, Chinese football could be in for a great leap forward in the next few years.**

## Dateline Diary . . . Dateline Diary . . .

# Deyna to retire in December

**JANUARY 9**

**MELBOURNE:** Referee Dirk Kramp abandoned the match between Melbourne Alexander-Juventus and Hertha 03 after crowd trouble and violence on the field with players swopping punches. Hertha led 1-0 at the time.

**JANUARY 11**

**WARSAW:** Kazimierz Deyna has announced his retirement from the game from the end of the year. He wants to devote more time to his family.

**JANUARY 14**

**FLORENCE:** Dr Artemio Franchi, President of the European Union said that the 1974 World Cup showed the complete supremacy of European football. Only the South American teams had not modified their style.

**JANUARY 15**

**TEL AVIV:** The Israel Football Association said that it was definitely interested in Spurs former Manager Bill Nicholson. Two previous national coaches for Israel from Britain have been George Ainsley and Jackie Gibbons.

**VALETTA:** Maltese soccer referees and linesmen will have police protection after the resumption of football following a 15 day break due to violence from supporters and players. F.A. President Dr Joseph Mifsud Bonnici described the trouble as a psychological crisis.

**JANUARY 17**

**ADELAIDE:** English born soccer referee Peter Meredith collapsed and died of a heart attack during training. Forty year old Meredith came to Australia in 1964 from Bradford and left a widow and three sons.

**ZURICH:** FIFA's organising committee for the 1978 World Cup said it would consider nominating a reserve venue for the competition, but FIFA President Joao Havelange affirmed on several occasions that the finals will be staged in Argentina.

**NEW YORK:** Bayern Munich and the club's coach Dettmar Cramer were named as defendants today in a £4,350,000 breach of contract suit filed in the Federal Court here by the United States Soccer Federation. Cramer is alleged to have broken a contract as US National Coach after signing on July 7, 1964. Then the club found itself the victim of an apparent bomb hoax today. The package contained an alarm clock and carton of washing powder.

**JANUARY 18**

**NEW YORK:** George Best may sign for New York Cosmos. He has not played since January 1974.

**LIMA:** Peru's soccer championship has been suspended indefinitely because of rising transport costs. Nearly all the clubs are badly in debt and owe Peru's two airlines £152,000 for travel expenses.

**JANUARY 19**

**MUNICH:** Dettmar Cramer signed a three year contract with Bayern Munich despite the breach of contract suit against him.

**JANUARY 20**

**NEW YORK:** George Best was scheduled to fly home to Manchester after failing to reach agreement with New York Cosmos.

**BERNE:** UEFA are to send a representative to Cyprus to see whether the political climate is suitable for England's championship match against Cyprus.

**JANUARY 23**

**BERNE:** Franz Beckenbauer, captain of Bayern Munich and West Germany was warned about his conduct from the UEFA. Their control and disciplinary committee announced after meeting that the warning was for an incorrect gesture made to the Maltese crowd during the game between Malta and West Germany last December. Steve Perryman of Spurs was banned for two national representative matches for being sent off during the England Under-23 international v. Portugal on November 19.

**JANUARY 27**

**LIMA:** The Peruvian championship has ceased because the Peruvian airline companies have refused to carry League teams on their aircraft, until their debts are settled.

**LISBON:** The Portuguese F.A. called off the international with Russia partly because of the tense political situation.

**JANUARY 28**

**MADRID:** Roberto Martinez the Spanish right winger has withdrawn from the national team squad to play Scotland because of back trouble. Martinez has been the subject of an inquiry by the Spanish F.A. over his right to play for the country. Born in Argentina, his parental qualification is now in doubt.

**MOSCOW:** Soviet Soccer officials are clamping down on misbehaviour on the field. In the new season any player receiving four cautions would be liable to disqualification for between five matches and the rest of the season. The measures take effect from April 12 when the new season starts.

**JANUARY 29**

**QUITO:** Ruch Chorzow of Poland beat the Ecuador national team 2-0 before a crowd of 20,000 with goals from Bula (four minutes) and Mar (23).

**MADRID:** Spanish clubs will no longer have a free hand to buy foreign players if a government recommendation is approved.

**LIEGE:** Carol Curr, 17-year-old Irish girl scored four goals on her debut for Standard Famina, Belgium's top soccer team for women. She replaced their previous striker who hung up her boots when she became pregnant.

**JANUARY 30**

**VALENCIA:** Three Spanish players have injuries but are expected to be fit for the match with Scotland. They are Garate, Quini and Migueli, all suffering from leg injuries.

**JANUARY 31**

**NICOSIA:** Cyprus agreed to put back their home match v. England until May to enable them to get their pitch at Limassol into good condition. The match will now be played on May 11.

**FEBRUARY 2**

**SYDNEY:** Legia Warsaw drew 2-2 with Australia before 16,000. Jim Rooney and Gary Manuel scored for the Aussies and Wladislaw Drabowski was responsible for getting both Legia goals. Legia who lost 2-1 to South Australia last week were two down in 30 minutes. Australia now have a new British manager-coach in Eric Worthington who succeeded Yugoslavian Rale Rasic.

**FEBRUARY 4**

**ZURICH:** FIFA say that doubt's about Argentina's ability to stage the championship must be removed this year.

**AMSTERDAM:** The Dutch F.A. want the government to lift or at least reduce value added tax of 16 per cent and abolish an entertainments tax levied on clubs by local authorities to help ailing clubs hit by rising costs and falling gates.

**FEBRUARY 5**

**VIAREGGIO:** Lazio and Kickers Offenbach won places in the semi-finals of the local youth tournament.

**VALENCIA:** Spain and Scotland drew 1-1 here in a European Championship qualifying match. Joe Jordon scored in the first minute for Scotland but Alfredo Megido a second half substitute equalised in the 66th minute.

**FEBRUARY 8**

**ZURICH:** Argentina will definitely stage the 1978 World Cup, according to FIFA.

**FEBRUARY 10**

**VIAREGGIO:** Napoli beat Lazio 2-1 in the youth final; Ujpest beat Offenbach 4-1 for third place.

# CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

| | JABL'EC | SPARTA | ZILINA | PILSEN | TRINEC | NITRA | INTER | BOHEMIANS | DUKLA | SLOVAN | KOSICE | OSTRAVA | TEPLICE | SLAVIA | TRNAVA | BRNO |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JABLONEC | — | 3-1 | 2-1 | | | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 2-1 | 2-1 | | 0-0 | | | 2-0 |
| SPARTA | | — | 2-3 | 5-3 | | 1-0 | | 1-1 | | 4-2 | | 0-1 | | | 1-1 | |
| ZILINA | | | — | 1-0 | 2-0 | | | 1-1 | 1-1 | | | 1-1 | | 4-2 | 1-1 | |
| PILSEN | 2-1 | | | — | 2-0 | | | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 0-2 | | 1-0 | 0-1 | |
| TRINEC | 1-0 | 0-0 | | | — | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 2-3 | 1-1 | | 2-0 | | | 1-1 |
| NITRA | | | 1-0 | 2-1 | | — | 2-1 | | | 1-4 | 1-1 | | 2-0 | | | 4-1 |
| INTER | | 7-4 | 2-0 | 4-0 | | | — | 2-1 | 3-1 | | | 1-0 | | 2-0 | 3-1 | |
| BOHEMIANS | 3-0 | | | | 2-0 | 4-0 | | — | 1-2 | | | 1-0 | | 1-1 | 2-2 | |
| DUKLA | 1-0 | 0-3 | | | 0-0 | 4-0 | | | — | 2-1 | 2-1 | | 0-0 | | | 0-0 |
| SLOVAN | | | 8-1 | 5-2 | | | 1-0 | 1-1 | | — | 2-0 | 1-1 | 4-0 | | | 2-0 |
| KOSICE | | 5-1 | 5-0 | 6-2 | | | 3-2 | 3-0 | | | — | 3-2 | | 6-2 | 3-1 | |
| OSTRAVA | 0-0 | | | | 3-1 | 2-1 | | | 2-1 | | | — | 1-2 | 1-0 | 2-0 | |
| TEPLICE | | 2-0 | 0-0 | 1-0 | | | 1-0 | 2-0 | | | 3-0 | | — | 2-0 | | |
| SLAVIA | 2-0 | 3-0 | | | 1-1 | 2-0 | | | 1-0 | 2-0 | | | 2-2 | — | | 1-1 |
| TRNAVA | 2-0 | | | | 1-0 | 2-0 | | | 2-1 | 0-4 | | | | 3-1 | — | 1-1 |
| BRNO | | 1-1 | 2-1 | 2-1 | | | 5-1 | 0-3 | | | 4-1 | 2-1 | 5-2 | | | — |

# POLAND

| | RUCH | GORNIK | STAL | LEGIA | WISLA | LODZ | ROW | POGON | GWARDIA | LECH | ZAGL'E | POLONIA | SLASK | SZOMB'KI | TYCHY | ARKA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| RUCH CHORZOW | — | | 2-1 | 2-0 | | | 3-1 | | | 5-0 | 1-0 | 4-0 | | 3-1 | 4-0 | 6-0 |
| GORNIK ZABRZE | 1-1 | — | 1-2 | | | | 1-1 | 4-1 | | 3-0 | | 1-1 | 2-2 | | 4-1 | |
| STAL MIELEC | | | — | 3-1 | | 0-0 | 1-0 | | 1-0 | 2-2 | | | | 0-1 | | 2-1 |
| LEGIA WARSAW | | 2-1 | | — | 2-1 | 2-0 | 0-1 | | 0-0 | | | | | 3-1 | | 4-2 |
| WISLA KRAKOW | 2-1 | 0-2 | 1-1 | | — | | | 3-0 | | | | 2-1 | 3-0 | | 1-1 | |
| LKS LODZ | 1-2 | 2-1 | | | 0-2 | — | | 1-0 | | | | 1-1 | 1-1 | | 1-1 | |
| ROW RYBNIK | | | | | 0-0 | 0-0 | — | 2-0 | 1-0 | | 2-2 | | | | 0-0 | 2-0 |
| POGON SZECZIN | 0-1 | | 0-2 | 1-0 | | | | — | | 2-1 | | 0-1 | 0-1 | | 1-0 | |
| GWARDIA WARSAW | 1-3 | 2-1 | | | 0-0 | 3-1 | | 0-0 | — | | 2-1 | | 0-2 | | 0-2 | |
| LECH POZNAN | | | | 2-1 | 4-1 | 1-0 | 2-0 | | 0-0 | — | | | | 1-0 | | 3-1 |
| ZAGALBIE | | 3-3 | 0-0 | 0-2 | 2-1 | 2-0 | | 0-1 | | 2-0 | — | 1-1 | | | | |
| POLONIA BYTOM | | | 0-1 | 1-1 | | | 0-0 | | 1-0 | 0-0 | | — | | 0-3 | | 4-0 |
| SLASK WROCLAW | 0-1 | | 1-2 | 0-0 | | | 2-0 | | | 0-1 | 2-1 | 3-1 | — | 1-0 | | |
| SZIOMBIERKI | | 2-2 | | | 0-1 | 5-2 | 2-2 | 0-0 | 3-0 | | 1-2 | | | — | | 1-1 |
| TYCHY | | | 0-2 | 2-1 | | | | | | 1-1 | 0-1 | 3-0 | 3-1 | 3-1 | — | |
| ARKA | | 0-0 | | | 1-1 | 1-0 | | 1-1 | 2-1 | | 1-0 | | 1-2 | | 1-0 | — |

# EAST GERMANY

| | VOR STRAL | CHEMIE HALLE | WISMUT AUE | DYN DRESDEN | STAL REISA | LOK LEIPZIG | VOR FRANK | R W ERFURT | CARL ZEISS | MAGDEBURG | HANSA ROST | DYN BERLIN | KARL MARX STADT | S ZWICKAU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VOERWARTS STRALSUND | — | 0-2 | | 3-2 | 0-0 | | | 3-1 | 0-3 | | | 0-1 | 0-1 | |
| CHEMIE HALLE | | — | 2-2 | 0-0 | 7-1 | | | 2-2 | 0-2 | | | 1-1 | 3-1 | |
| WISMUT AUE | 0-0 | | — | 3-0 | | 0-1 | 2-1 | | | 1-1 | 0-1 | | | 5-3 |
| DYNAMO DRESDEN | | | | — | | 2-1 | | 1-0 | | 1-0 | | 3-2 | 4-1 | 0-0 |
| STAL REISA | | | 4-1 | 2-2 | — | 1-0 | 2-1 | | | 1-0 | 3-1 | | | 4-2 |
| LOKOMOTIVE LIEPZIG | 2-2 | 5-3 | | | | — | 4-5 | | | 3-1 | 0-3 | | | 1-0 |
| VOERWARTS FRANKFURT | 5-0 | 1-2 | | 2-3 | | | — | 1-2 | 0-0 | | | 5-2 | 2-2 | |
| ROT WEISS ERFURT | | | 2-0 | | 1-0 | 4-1 | | — | 1-2 | | | 2-0 | 3-0 | |
| CARL ZEISS JENA | | | 2-0 | 3-1 | 2-1 | 2-1 | | | — | 3-0 | 3-1 | | | 1-0 |
| HANSA ROSTOCK | 1-0 | 2-2 | | | | | 2-0 | 2-0 | | — | 2-3 | | | 1-2 |
| MAGDEBURG | 3-1 | 2-0 | | 3-0 | | | 1-0 | 4-0 | | | — | 1-1 | 5-3 | |
| DYNAMO BERLIN | | | 6-0 | | 3-0 | 3-1 | | | 1-1 | 0-0 | | — | 0-0 | |
| KARL MARX STADT | | | 0-0 | | 0-1 | 2-1 | | | 3-1 | 2-1 | | | — | 0-2 |
| SACHENRING ZWICKAU | 4-0 | 1-1 | | | | | 0-0 | 2-0 | | | 2-5 | 2-0 | | — |

# SWITZERLAND

| | BASLE | NEUCHATEL | CHENOIS | GRASSHOPPERS | LUGANO | SERVETTE | ST GALLEN | LAUSANNE | VEVEY | WINTERTHUR | YOUNG BOYS | SION | ZURICH | LUCERNE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BASLE | — | 2–2 | 2–0 | | | | | | 3–0 | 5–0 | | | 1–0 | 3–0 |
| NEUCHATEL | | — | 5–1 | | 1–0 | 2–0 | | 1–1 | | | 1–2 | 0–1 | | |
| CHENOIS | | | — | 2–2 | 1–1 | | 1–4 | 1–1 | | | | 1–1 | | |
| GRASSHOPPERS | 1–1 | 3–1 | | — | 2–1 | | | | 4–0 | 1–1 | | | | 2–2 |
| LUGANO | 2–0 | | | | — | 2–1 | 0–2 | | 2–2 | | 1–0 | | 3–1 | 2–0 |
| SERVETTE | 2–1 | | 3–1 | 6–1 | | — | | 1–1 | 3–1 | | | 2–1 | 0–3 | |
| ST GALLEN | 2–0 | 1–1 | | 2–2 | | 1–1 | — | 2–2 | | | 0–7 | 3–2 | | |
| LAUSANNE | 1–1 | | | 0–0 | 3–0 | | | — | 3–2 | 0–0 | | | 0–1 | 2–0 |
| VEVEY | | 4–2 | 1–2 | | | | 2–2 | | — | 1–4 | | | 0–4 | 2–2 |
| WINTERTHUR | | 3–1 | 8–0 | | 3–3 | 1–0 | 3–2 | | | — | | 1–0 | | |
| YOUNG BOYS | 4–4 | | | 6–1 | | 0–3 | | 2–1 | 5–2 | 1–1 | — | 0–0 | | |
| SION | 1–1 | | | 4–1 | 4–2 | | | 0–0 | 2–0 | | | — | 1–0 | 5–0 |
| ZURICH | | 3–0 | 5–0 | 3–1 | | | 5–0 | | | 2–0 | 4–1 | | — | 5–1 |
| LUCERNE | | 2–4 | 1–4 | | | 0–1 | 3–1 | | | 0–0 | 3–1 | | | — |

### POLAND
(at Winter break)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ruck Chorzow** | **15** | **13** | **1** | **1** | **39** | **8** | **27** |
| Stal Mielec | 15 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 20 | 10 | 22 |
| Lech Poznan | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 18 | 18 | 18 |
| Wisla Krakow | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 15 | 17 |
| Slask Wroclaw | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 16 | 17 |
| Gornik Zabrze | 15 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 27 | 20 | 15 |
| Legia Warsaw | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 17 | 15 |
| Zaglebie | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 17 | 17 | 14 |
| Sziombierki | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 21 | 19 | 13 |
| ROW Rybnik | 15 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 13 |
| GKS Tychy | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 19 | 13 |
| Gwardia Warsaw | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 10 | 17 | 12 |
| Polonia Bytom | 15 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 20 | 12 |
| Arka Gydnis | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 27 | 12 |
| Pogon Szeszin | 15 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 17 | 11 |
| LKS Lodz | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 22 | 9 |

### EAST GERMANY
(at Winter break)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Carl Zeiss Jena** | **13** | **10** | **2** | **1** | **25** | **9** | **22** |
| FC Magdeburg | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 33 | 15 | 21 |
| Stal Reisa | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 19 | 16 |
| Dynamo Dresden | 13 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 19 | 20 | 15 |
| Chemie Halle | 13 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 25 | 20 | 14 |
| Dynamo Berlin | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 16 | 13 |
| Sachzenring | 13 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 20 | 18 | 13 |
| Rot-Weiss Erfurt | 13 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 18 | 18 | 13 |
| K Marx Stadt | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 15 | 23 | 11 |
| Wismut Aue | 13 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 23 | 10 |
| Vor Frankfurt | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 22 | 22 | 9 |
| Hansa Rostock | 13 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 9 |
| Loko Leipzig | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 21 | 28 | 9 |
| Vor Stralsund | 13 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 25 | 7 |

### SWITZERLAND
(at Winter break)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Zurich** | **13** | **10** | **0** | **3** | **36** | **8** | **20** |
| Winterthur | 13 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 25 | 16 | 17 |
| Sion | 13 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 11 | 16 |
| Servette | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 23 | 15 | 16 |
| Basle | 14 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 24 | 15 | 15 |
| Lausanne | 13 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 11 | 14 |
| Young Boys | 12 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 21 | 13 |
| Lugano | 13 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 20 | 13 |
| St Gallen | 13 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 29 | 13 |
| Grasshoppers | 13 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 21 | 29 | 12 |
| Neuchatel | 13 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 23 | 11 |
| Chenois | 12 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 8 |
| Lucerne | 13 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 32 | 7 |
| Vevey | 13 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 17 | 38 | 5 |

### CZECHOSLOVAKIA
(at Winter break)

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Slovan Bratislava** | **15** | **9** | **2** | **4** | **39** | **18** | **20** |
| Union Teplice | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 17 | 16 | 18 |
| VSS Kosice | 15 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 39 | 26 | 17 |
| Banik Ostrava | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 19 | 14 | 17 |
| Zbrojovka Brno | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 25 | 22 | 17 |
| Inter Bratislava | 15 | 8 | 0 | 7 | 30 | 23 | 16 |
| Liaz Jablonec | 15 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| Spartak Trnava | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 18 | 21 | 16 |
| Bohemians | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 16 | 15 |
| Dukla Prague | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 16 | 17 | 14 |
| Slavia Prague | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 20 | 22 | 14 |
| TZ Trinec | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 17 | 13 |
| Zvl Zilina | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 28 | 13 |
| Sparta Prague | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 32 | 12 |
| AC Nitra | 15 | 6 | 0 | 9 | 15 | 25 | 12 |
| Skoda Pilsen | 15 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 17 | 31 | 10 |

### PERU

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Universitario** | **42** | **25** | **15** | **2** | **96** | **41** | **65** |
| Union Huaral | 42 | 25 | 12 | 5 | 76 | 37 | 62 |
| Defensor Lima | 40 | 20 | 13 | 7 | 74 | 37 | 53 |
| Alianza Lima | 42 | 21 | 10 | 11 | 75 | 43 | 52 |
| U. Tuman. Chic. | 42 | 20 | 12 | 10 | 63 | 43 | 52 |
| Col. Nac. Iquitos | 42 | 17 | 17 | 8 | 67 | 49 | 51 |
| Sport. Cris., Lima | 42 | 19 | 12 | 11 | 74 | 60 | 50 |
| At. Chal. Callao | 42 | 17 | 14 | 11 | 57 | 43 | 48 |
| Juan. Aur., Chic. | 42 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 68 | 55 | 46 |
| U. Cien., Cuzco | 41 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 63 | 50 | 44 |
| Alf. Ugarte, Puno | 41 | 13 | 15 | 13 | 70 | 58 | 41 |
| Melg'r. Arequipa | 42 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 48 | 47 | 41 |
| Dep. Mun., Lima | 42 | 15 | 10 | 17 | 58 | 65 | 40 |
| Leon de Huan. | 42 | 14 | 11 | 17 | 48 | 68 | 39 |
| At. Grau, Piura | 42 | 12 | 14 | 16 | 69 | 78 | 38 |
| Sp. Boys, Callao | 42 | 9 | 17 | 16 | 50 | 59 | 35 |
| Wal. Or., Canete | 42 | 10 | 11 | 21 | 41 | 65 | 31 |
| Dep. Jun., Huan. | 41 | 10 | 10 | 21 | 51 | 77 | 30 |
| Sp. Pier., Areq'pa | 42 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 45 | 77 | 30 |
| At. Bar. Fri., Cal. | 41 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 33 | 74 | 24 |
| Car. Man., Truj. | 42 | 8 | 8 | 26 | 51 | 96 | 24 |
| Dep. Pes., Moq. | 42 | 4 | 14 | 24 | 26 | 79 | 22 |

Continued on next page

# NEW LOOK

**THE Peruvian club, Defensor Lima, is the new holder of the new-look Simon Bolivar Cup after winning all its three matches at the tournament held in the Colombian city of Medellin.**

It was the first time that teams from Peru and Ecuador had taken part—the cup was previously confined to Venezuelan and Colombian clubs — but the tournament proved to be a disaster, both from a financial and a sporting viewpoint.

The sub-standard quality of the football failed to attract a high enough number of spectators and the result was a financial loss of about 17,000 dollars.

Although held in January this year the tournament was actually the 1974 version of the Simon Bolivar Cup. Difficulties in arranging dates on which the teams taking part had no other commitments had caused the postponement. The four competing teams were champions of their respective countries in 1973.

Another reason for the lack of success of the tournament was the failure of the host team, Atletico Nacional, who lost their two opening games leaving Medellin completely disinterested in the competition by the final round. And the whole thing was not helped by the organisers' strange decision to eliminate draws by having all tied games decided by penalties.

The future of the Simon Bolivar Cup now seems to be in doubt. The next competition is scheduled for August this year in Ecuador with the Bolivian champions also taking part, but it looks as if the organisers may have a drastic rethink before then.

**Results — Simon Bolivar Cup**

Portuguesa (Venezuela) 0, Nacional (Ecuador) 0 (Nacional won 2-0 on pens); Atletico Nacional (Colombia) 1, Defensor Lima (Peru) 1 (Defensor won 5-4 on pens); Defensor Lima 2, Nacional 0; Atletico Nacional 2, Portuguesa 3; Atletico Nacional 2, Nacional 0; Defensor Lima 1, Portuguesa 0.

# LEAGUE TABLES

### BELGIUM

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **RWD Molenbeek** | **24** | **15** | **9** | **0** | **64** | **23** | **39** |
| Anderlecht | 24 | 12 | 10 | 2 | 45 | 16 | 34 |
| Standard | 24 | 13 | 6 | 5 | 41 | 21 | 32 |
| FC Bruges | 24 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 47 | 22 | 31 |
| Beerschot | 24 | 12 | 6 | 6 | 37 | 23 | 30 |
| Antwerp | 24 | 11 | 7 | 6 | 36 | 23 | 29 |
| Lierse | 24 | 11 | 4 | 9 | 34 | 34 | 26 |
| Lokeren | 24 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 35 | 35 | 26 |
| Beveren-Waas | 24 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 21 | 23 | 23 |
| CS Bruges | 24 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 23 | 28 | 23 |
| Berchem | 24 | 5 | 12 | 7 | 20 | 23 | 22 |
| Waregem | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 26 | 31 | 21 |
| Beringen | 24 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 30 | 37 | 21 |
| Ostende | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 38 | 43 | 20 |
| FC Malinois | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 14 | 24 | 20 |
| SC Charleroi | 24 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 24 | 40 | 20 |
| Ol. Montignies | 24 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 22 | 40 | 20 |
| FC Liege | 24 | 6 | 6 | 12 | 25 | 35 | 18 |
| Diest | 24 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 17 | 43 | 15 |
| Winterslag | 24 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 19 | 54 | 10 |

### FRANCE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | Bonus Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **St. Etienne** | **26** | **16** | **4** | **6** | **46** | **25** | **3** | **39** |
| Bastia | 25 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 37 | 28 | 4 | 34 |
| Nimes | 26 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 40 | 31 | 3 | 33 |
| Lyon | 26 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 43 | 35 | 3 | 32 |
| Nantes | 25 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 31 | 25 | 0 | 30 |
| Reims | 26 | 12 | 4 | 10 | 43 | 39 | 2 | 30 |
| Marseille | 25 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 39 | 29 | 2 | 29 |
| Monaco | 25 | 13 | 3 | 9 | 47 | 46 | 0 | 29 |
| Lens | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 41 | 42 | 2 | 29 |
| Strasbourg | 26 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 30 | 36 | 2 | 29 |
| Bordeaux | 25 | 12 | 2 | 11 | 38 | 35 | 2 | 28 |
| Nice | 25 | 10 | 6 | 9 | 37 | 39 | 1 | 27 |
| Rennes | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 32 | 32 | 1 | 27 |
| St. Germain | 26 | 10 | 6 | 10 | 46 | 51 | 1 | 27 |
| Troyes | 26 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 30 | 35 | 2 | 26 |
| Lille | 26 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 35 | 37 | 3 | 25 |
| Sochaux | 26 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 25 | 31 | 2 | 22 |
| Metz | 25 | 7 | 5 | 13 | 24 | 41 | 1 | 20 |
| Red Star | 26 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 29 | 36 | 3 | 20 |
| Angers | 26 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 24 | 44 | 2 | 15 |

### ENGLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Everton** | **28** | **11** | **13** | **4** | **41** | **27** | **35** |
| Stoke | 29 | 13 | 9 | 7 | 46 | 34 | 35 |
| Burnley | 29 | 14 | 7 | 8 | 50 | 41 | 35 |
| Ipswich | 29 | 16 | 2 | 11 | 41 | 26 | 34 |
| Liverpool | 27 | 14 | 5 | 8 | 41 | 27 | 33 |
| Manchester City | 29 | 13 | 7 | 9 | 39 | 40 | 33 |
| West Ham | 29 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 47 | 37 | 32 |
| Middlesbrough | 29 | 11 | 10 | 8 | 38 | 32 | 32 |
| Derby | 28 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 42 | 37 | 32 |
| Leeds | 29 | 12 | 7 | 10 | 39 | 31 | 31 |
| Sheffield Utd | 28 | 11 | 8 | 9 | 37 | 39 | 30 |
| Queens Park | 29 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 39 | 38 | 29 |
| Newcastle | 27 | 11 | 6 | 10 | 38 | 43 | 28 |
| Wolves | 28 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 34 | 35 | 27 |
| Coventry | 29 | 8 | 11 | 10 | 37 | 45 | 27 |
| Arsenal | 28 | 9 | 7 | 12 | 32 | 32 | 25 |
| Chelsea | 28 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 30 | 46 | 25 |
| Birmingham | 29 | 9 | 6 | 14 | 37 | 45 | 24 |
| Tottenham | 29 | 8 | 7 | 14 | 36 | 43 | 23 |
| Carlisle | 29 | 8 | 3 | 18 | 28 | 39 | 19 |
| Luton | 28 | 5 | 9 | 14 | 25 | 40 | 19 |
| Leicester | 28 | 5 | 8 | 15 | 24 | 44 | 18 |

### WEST GERMANY

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bor. M'gladbach.** | **19** | **11** | **4** | **4** | **45** | **25** | **26** |
| Kick.Offenbach | 19 | 12 | 2 | 5 | 46 | 33 | 26 |
| Hertha | 19 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 35 | 22 | 26 |
| Ein. Frankfurt | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 48 | 25 | 23 |
| Schalke | 19 | 10 | 3 | 6 | 30 | 15 | 23 |
| FC Cologne | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 42 | 30 | 23 |
| Ein. Brunswick | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 30 | 23 | 23 |
| Hamburg | 19 | 9 | 5 | 5 | 27 | 20 | 23 |
| Bochum | 19 | 10 | 2 | 7 | 33 | 27 | 22 |
| Rotweiss Essen | 19 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 30 | 34 | 19 |
| For. Dusseldorf | 19 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 27 | 31 | 19 |
| Duisburg | 19 | 8 | 3 | 8 | 35 | 40 | 19 |
| Kaiserslautern | 19 | 8 | 1 | 10 | 34 | 32 | 17 |
| Bayern Munich | 19 | 7 | 2 | 10 | 32 | 43 | 16 |
| Werder Bremen | 19 | 4 | 4 | 11 | 20 | 40 | 12 |
| Stuttgart | 19 | 4 | 3 | 12 | 25 | 44 | 11 |
| Tennis Borussia | 19 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 24 | 48 | 7 |
| Wuppertal | 19 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 15 | 46 | 7 |

### SCOTLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Rangers** | **23** | **18** | **3** | **2** | **65** | **20** | **39** |
| Celtic | 23 | 17 | 3 | 3 | 63 | 23 | 37 |
| Hibernian | 24 | 13 | 7 | 4 | 44 | 26 | 33 |
| Dundee Utd | 23 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 50 | 31 | 26 |
| Aberdeen | 23 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 42 | 29 | 26 |
| Hearts | 24 | 8 | 10 | 6 | 38 | 41 | 26 |
| Dundee | 23 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 28 | 28 | 23 |
| Ayr Utd | 23 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 33 | 46 | 23 |
| Motherwell | 23 | 10 | 2 | 11 | 36 | 39 | 22 |
| Partick | 24 | 8 | 5 | 11 | 37 | 49 | 21 |
| Dunfermline | 22 | 6 | 8 | 8 | 33 | 36 | 20 |
| St. Johnstone | 23 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 28 | 33 | 20 |
| Airdrie | 22 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 24 | 35 | 18 |
| Clyde | 23 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 32 | 43 | 18 |
| Kilmarnock | 22 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 32 | 52 | 17 |
| Morton | 23 | 5 | 7 | 11 | 25 | 45 | 17 |
| Dumbarton | 21 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 24 | 36 | 13 |
| Arbroath | 23 | 4 | 5 | 14 | 23 | 44 | 13 |

### HOLLAND

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PSV Eindhoven** | **20** | **13** | **6** | **1** | **49** | **19** | **32** |
| Feyenoord | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 63 | 19 | 31 |
| Ajax | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 49 | 19 | 31 |
| Twente | 20 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 34 | 18 | 26 |
| AZ 67 | 20 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 29 | 15 | 25 |
| Sparta | 20 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 25 | 18 | 22 |
| FC Den Haag | 20 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 23 | 22 | 21 |
| Roda JC | 20 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 31 | 34 | 21 |
| Telstar | 20 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 22 | 30 | 19 |
| Utrecht | 20 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 29 | 38 | 17 |
| Amsterdam | 20 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 21 | 27 | 16 |
| Excelsior | 20 | 4 | 8 | 8 | 20 | 27 | 16 |
| De Graafschap | 20 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 17 | 32 | 16 |
| Maastricht | 20 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 22 | 33 | 15 |
| Go Ahead | 20 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 18 | 33 | 15 |
| NAC Breda | 20 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 21 | 41 | 13 |
| Haarlem | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 21 | 44 | 12 |
| Wageningen | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | 19 | 44 | 12 |

### GREECE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Olympiakos** | **18** | **12** | **5** | **1** | **32** | **10** | **29** |
| AEK Athens | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 34 | 6 | 28 |
| Ethnikos | 18 | 11 | 6 | 1 | 28 | 11 | 28 |
| PAOK Salonika | 18 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 38 | 15 | 25 |
| Panathinaikos | 18 | 8 | 8 | 2 | 26 | 16 | 24 |
| Aris | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 22 | 22 | 18 |
| Iannina | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 21 | 23 | 18 |
| Kastoria | 18 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 32 | 18 |
| Iraklis | 18 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 25 | 23 | 17 |
| Panachaiki | 18 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 17 | 17 |
| Atromitos | 18 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 16 |
| Paniionios | 18 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 17 | 25 | 14 |
| Olympiakos Vol. | 18 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 19 | 32 | 14 |
| Larissa | 18 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 14 | 24 | 12. |
| Kalamata | 18 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 13 | 35 | 12 |
| Aigaleo | 18 | 5 | 0 | 13 | 15 | 25 | 10 |
| Kavala | 18 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 27 | 9 |

# Vital season for New Guinea

**THE 1975 season will in New Guinea be an important one at both national and local level. Olympic qualifying matches against Australia, which may both be played at home are due to be completed by March. However, the National team has more chance of success in the South Pacific Games in Guam in August.**

**At the previous games in Tahiti in 1971 New Caledonia won the Gold Medal, New Hebrides the Silver, and Tahiti the Bronze. Papua New Guinea missed the honours by finishing fourth, but gained some revenge by beating New Hebrides on home territory in Port Moresby a year**

**The National Coach, Ralph Suchanek, has said that he will rely on established players for the matches against Australia, but introduce new players in the South Pacific Games. An indication of the seriousness with which the ties against Australia are regarded is shown by Suchanek's statement that the team will go into a training camp in Moresby a fortnight before the first match.**

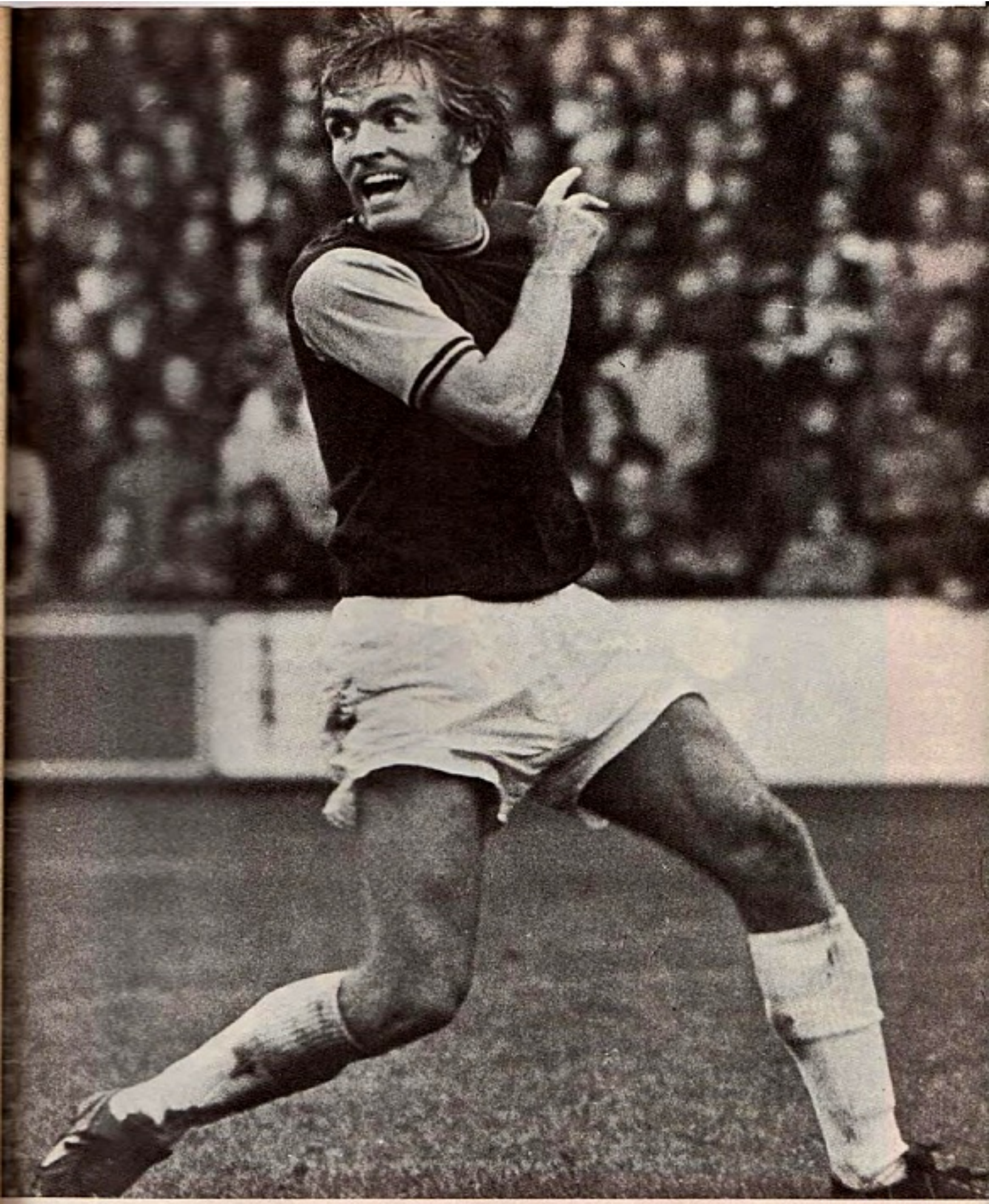
## Proposal

**Another significant pre-season development is the proposal of a National Club League. Such a competition would probably replace the national competition between regions which takes place at Easter. It is suggested that clubs entering the National League should have at least 2,000 Australian dollars capital as a guarantee they can meet transport expenses (nearly all travel is by air). A National League could well lead to a gain in the popularity of soccer over Rugby League and Aussie Rules Football.**

**A drawback of current local arrangement is the prevalence of the "Wantok" system. Who plays for a particular team can depend as much on kinship connections as on footballing ability. This is similar to the wantok problem which confronts soccer in part of Africa.**

**In Port Moresby a fixture has been scheduled between a representative team and a squad made up from the Seminary and Tarangau Clubs. In the forthcoming Moresby Soccer competitions PWD could again prove one of the most successful sides.**

**PAUL HARRIS.**



**BILLY JENNINGS West Ham Utd.**

World SOCCER

# INDEPENDIENTE F.C. Argentina